

YABAI



11

Komigō!

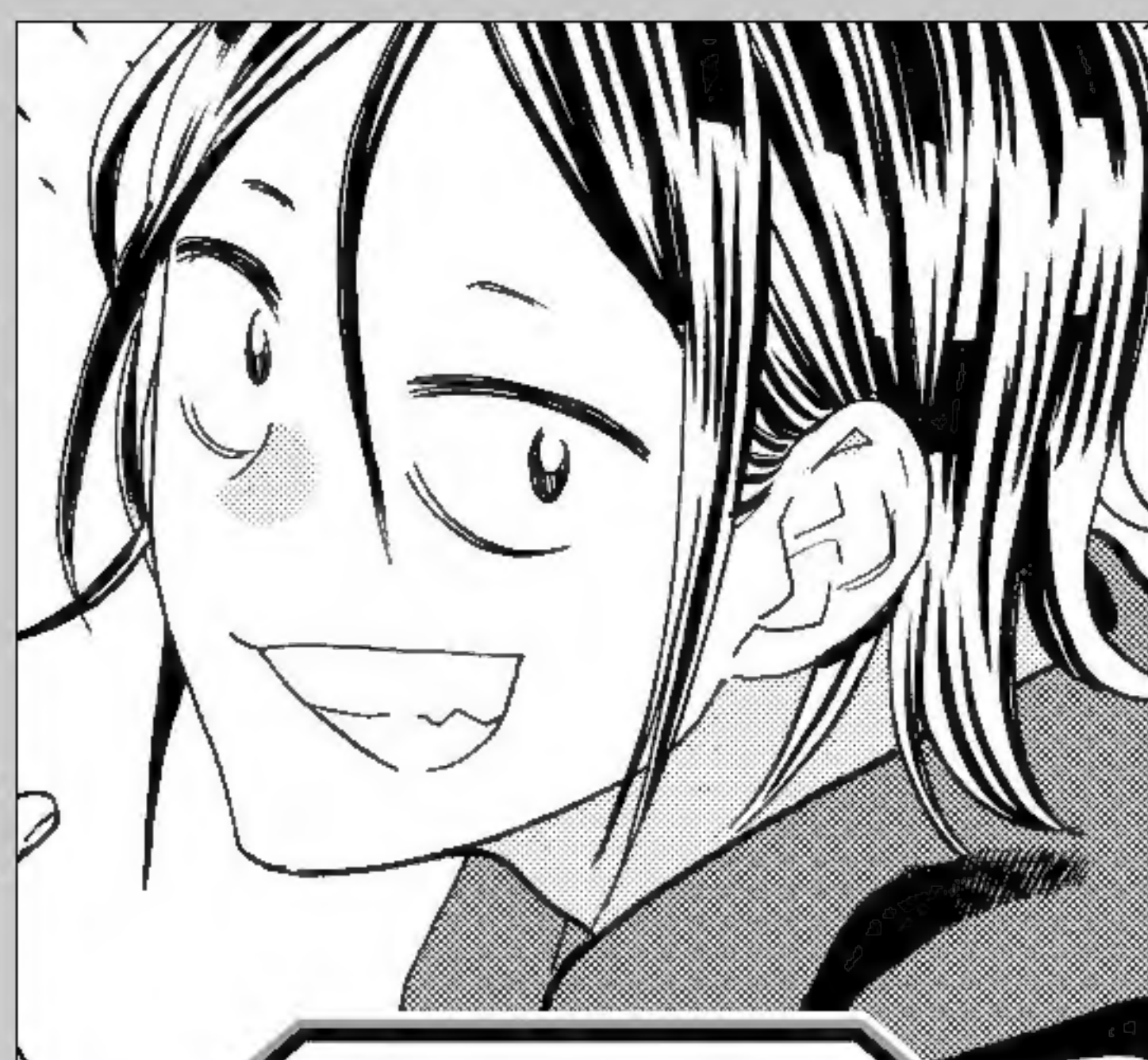
STORY BY YUTO YOTSUBA
ART BY RYO OGAWA

ya Boy Kong! ming!



STORY BY **YUTO YOTSUBA**

ART BY **RYO OGAWA**



Kabetaijin

A three-time consecutive winner of the MC DRB battle. When Kongming helped him overcome his past trauma, Kabetaijin was able to return to the stage.



Shino Sakurai

A talented office clerk who manages The Fourth Kingdom's information database. Determined to be an indispensable force, she was hired as an official employee.



Hajime Shoji

An employee of The Fourth Kingdom. Aspires to break the borders of the music industry with Kongming.



...CAN I INVITE YOU TO MY STAGE TODAY TO DO A RAP SESSION?

Keiji Maezono

A genius solo artist who's said to be the best of our time. However, he's been using his influence as the scion of a major advertising company, Denposha, and the truth remains masked in lies and conspiracy.

THE STORY SO FAR

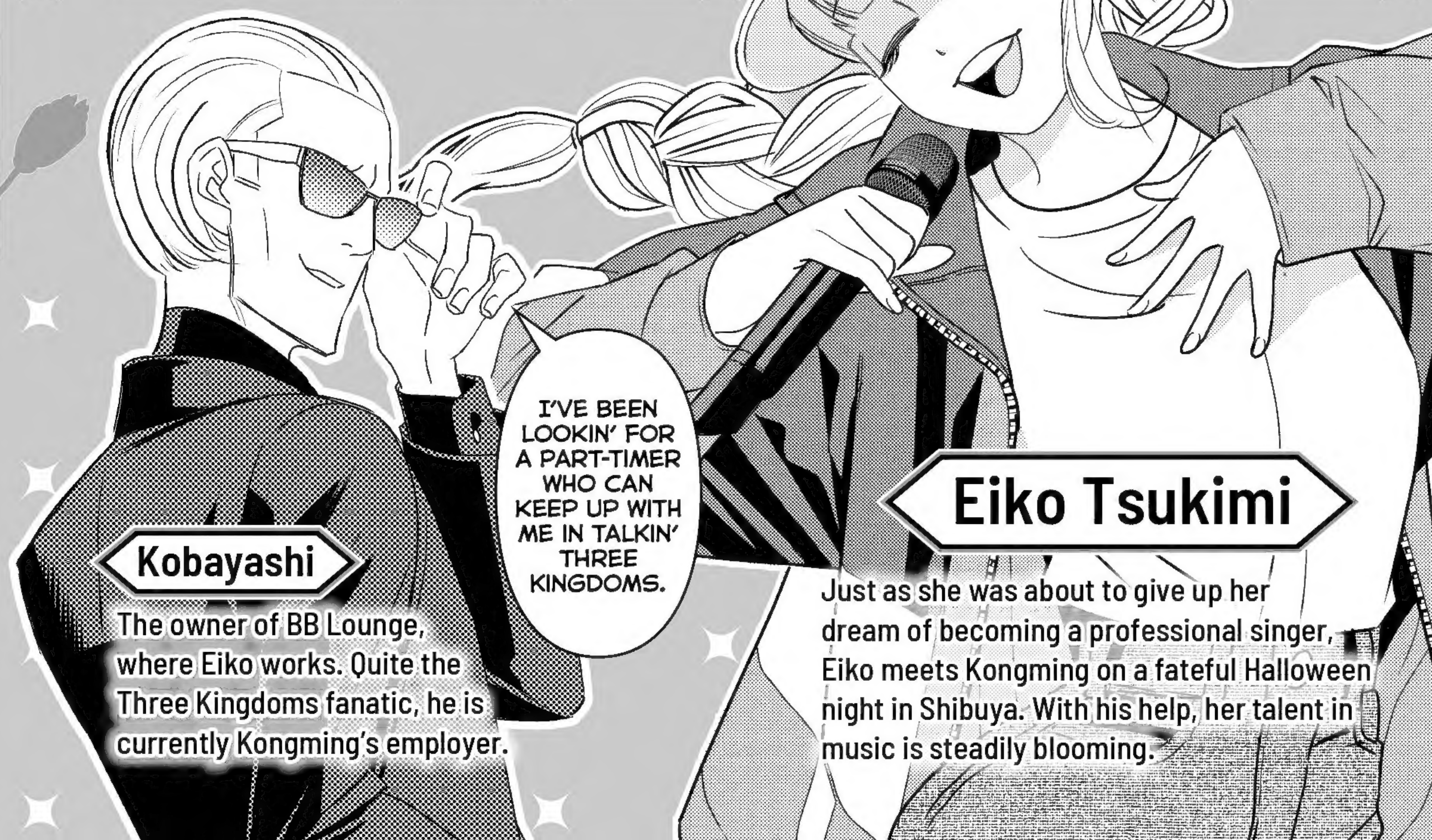
When **Shino Sakurai** gets tricked by a heinous host, Kongming teaches the man a lesson, and promptly invites her to join The Fourth Kingdom **as a formal employee** in order to bring out her full potential. When Eiko overworks herself and is **hospitalized** as a result, she runs into an elderly confectionary maker, and their meeting inspires Eiko to create a **new song**. Now, she has **safely met all the requirements** to sing at Summer Sonia! What's more, her **debut album**, which is set to go on sale after the festival, is fully ready. **Summer Sonia 2020** is finally here! Feeling threatened by Eiko's talent, popular artist, **Keiji Maezono**, attempts to **destroy Eiko's performance** by scouting Kabetaijin to rap for him instead. To combat Keiji, the counter-strategy that Kongming had in mind was none other than the famous **Fire Attack Strategy**, which will burn away the gaping difference in their fighting strength!!



Zhuge Liang (Courtesy name Kongming)

The tactician of Shu. In 234 CE, Kongming passed away during the Battle of Wuzhang Plains, after which he was transported to Shibuya, 1800 years in the future. There, he meets the aspiring singer, Eiko Tsukimi, and appoints himself as her personal tactician.

CHARACTERS



Kobayashi

The owner of BB Lounge, where Eiko works. Quite the Three Kingdoms fanatic, he is currently Kongming's employer.

I'VE BEEN LOOKIN' FOR A PART-TIMER WHO CAN KEEP UP WITH ME IN TALKIN' THREE KINGDOMS.

Eiko Tsukimi

Just as she was about to give up her dream of becoming a professional singer, Eiko meets Kongming on a fateful Halloween night in Shibuya. With his help, her talent in music is steadily blooming.

CHAPTER 82

Kabetaijin's Decision

CHAPTER 83

The Calm East-South

CHAPTER 84

The Rumored Artist

CHAPTER 85

Proof of Innocence

CHAPTER 86

The Wind's Rock

CHAPTER 87

A Session with the Wind and Eiko

CHAPTER 88

Swaying Wind

CHAPTER 89

The Start of the Summer War

CHAPTER 90

Sealed Bridge

EXTRA

Special Short Story "Kongming's Day Off"

C O N T E N T S



YOU GOTTA
GRAB HOLD
OF YOUR
DREAMS!

HEY, MAN!
WHAT'S
THERE
TO THINK
ABOUT?



THIS INVITE
CAME OUT
OF THE
BLUE.

CAN'T
BLAME
THE KID.



...AND
LET'S
DRINK!

ハ
チ
ン
SNAP

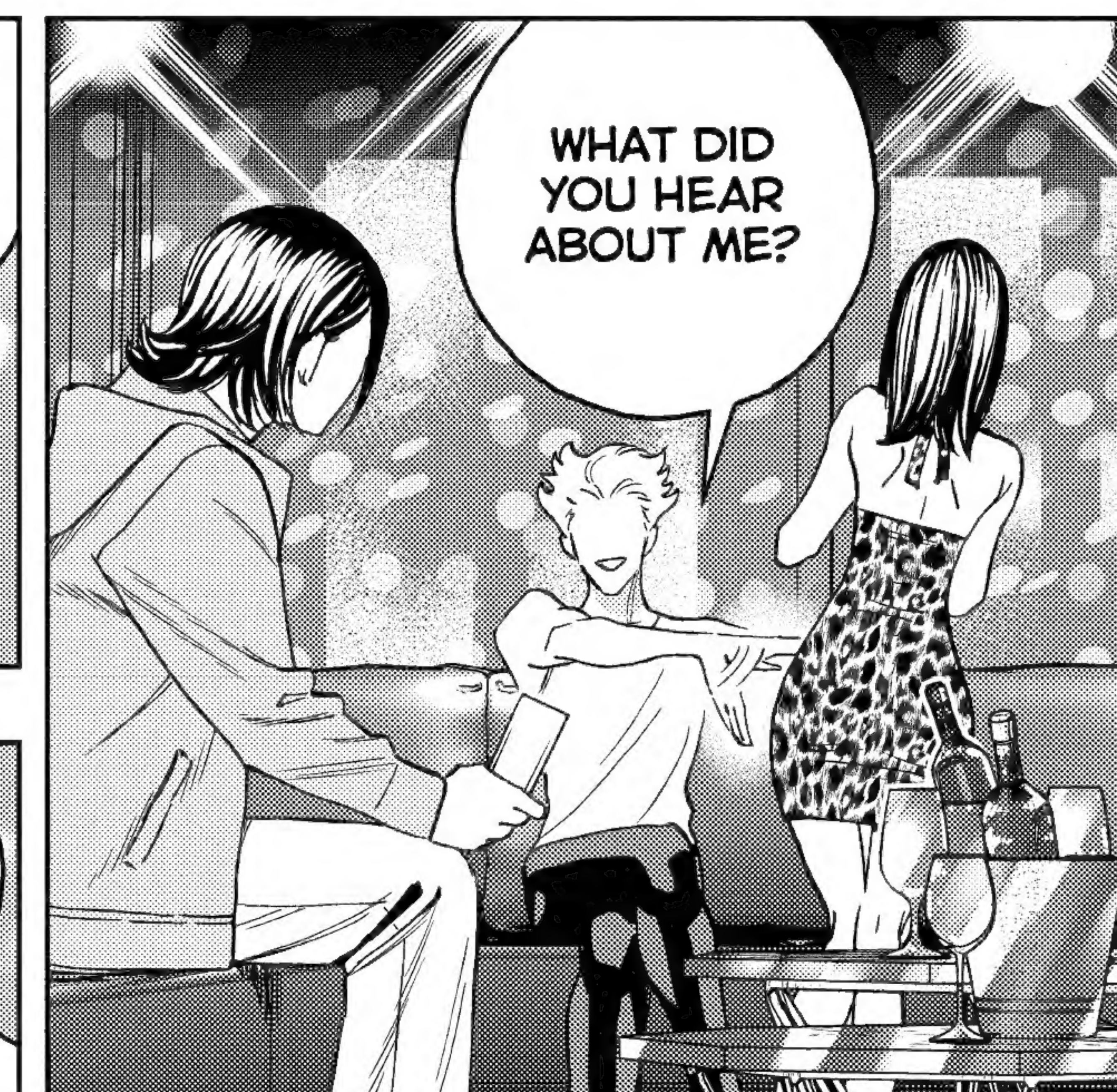
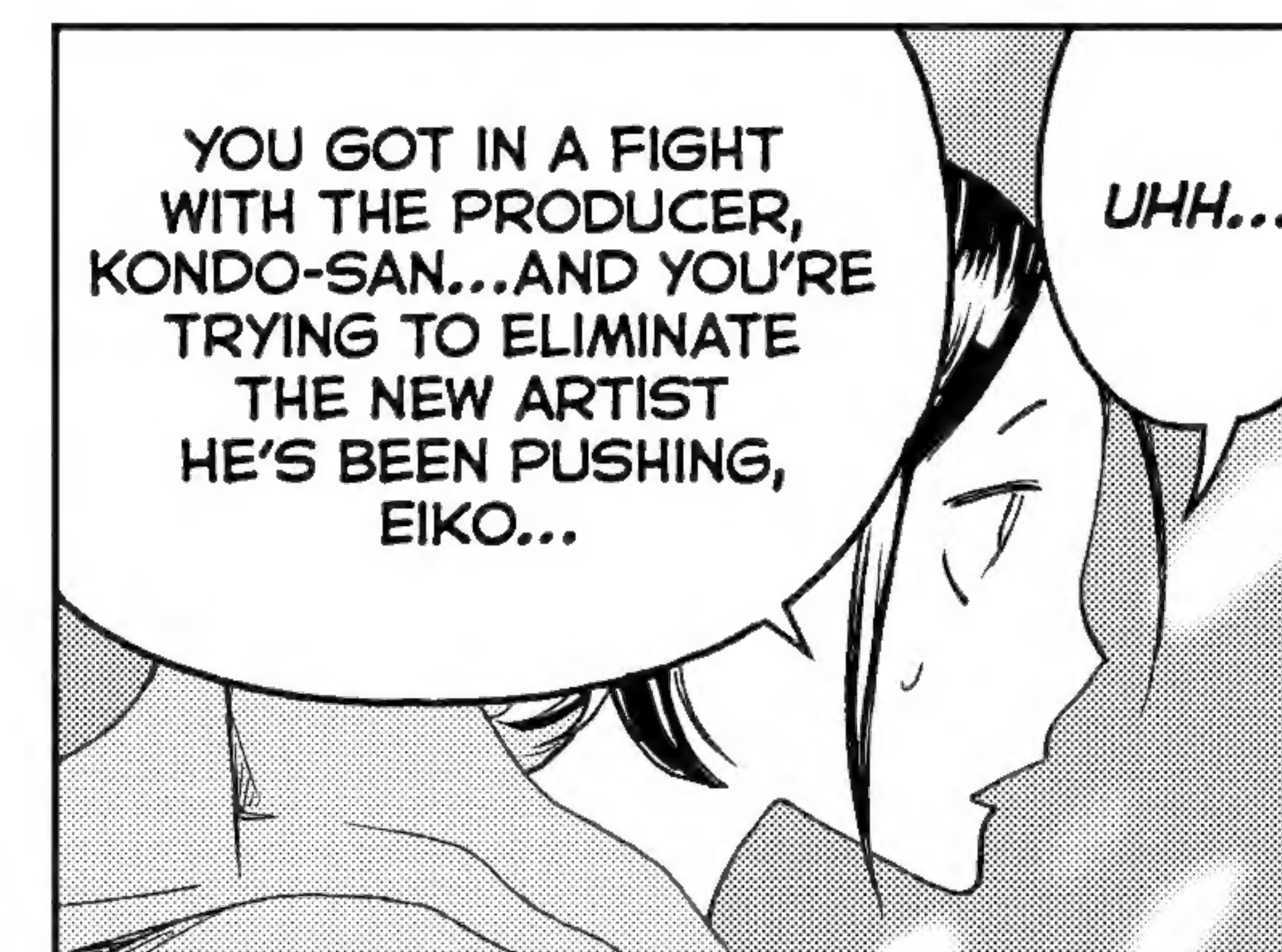
ANYWAYS,
LET'S
PUT THE
DIFFICULT
TALK ASIDE
FOR NOW...



...



CHAPTER 82 Kabetaijin's Decision





BUT...
I *DID* ASK
HIM FOR
A SMALL
FAVOR.

I'M NOT
TRYING TO
MAKE AN
ENEMY OF
KONDO-SAN.



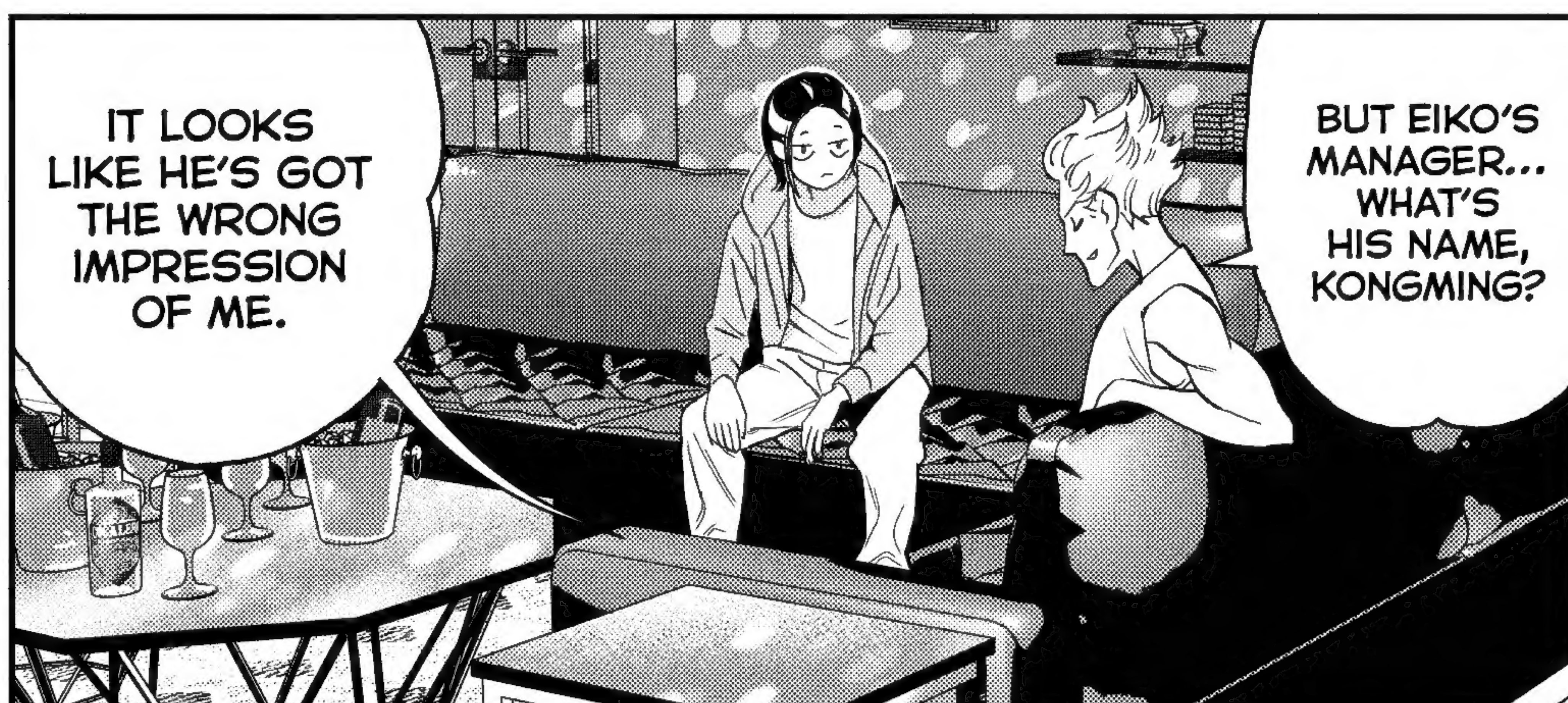
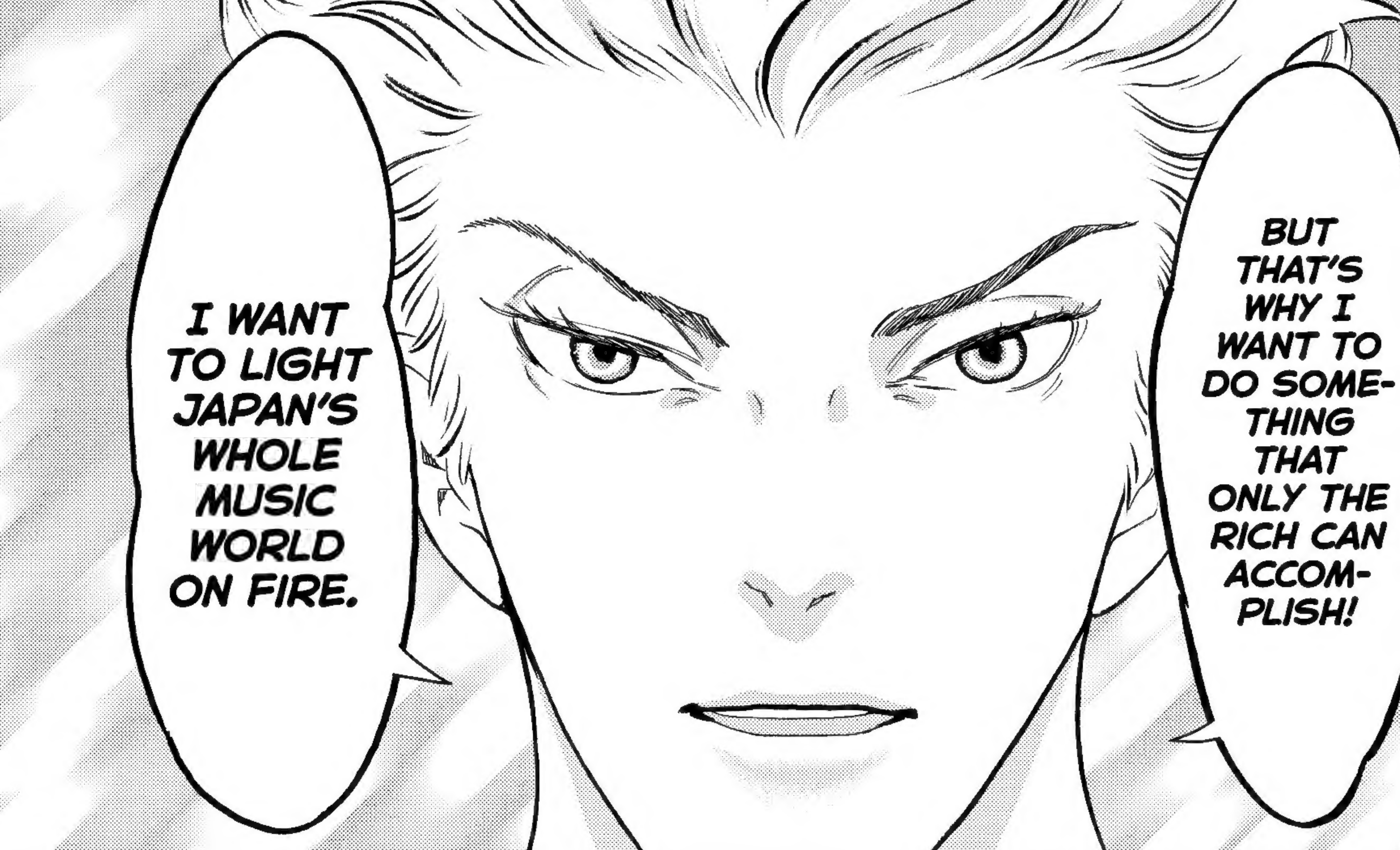
I'VE GOT
EVERYTHING
I'VE EVER
WANTED
ALREADY.

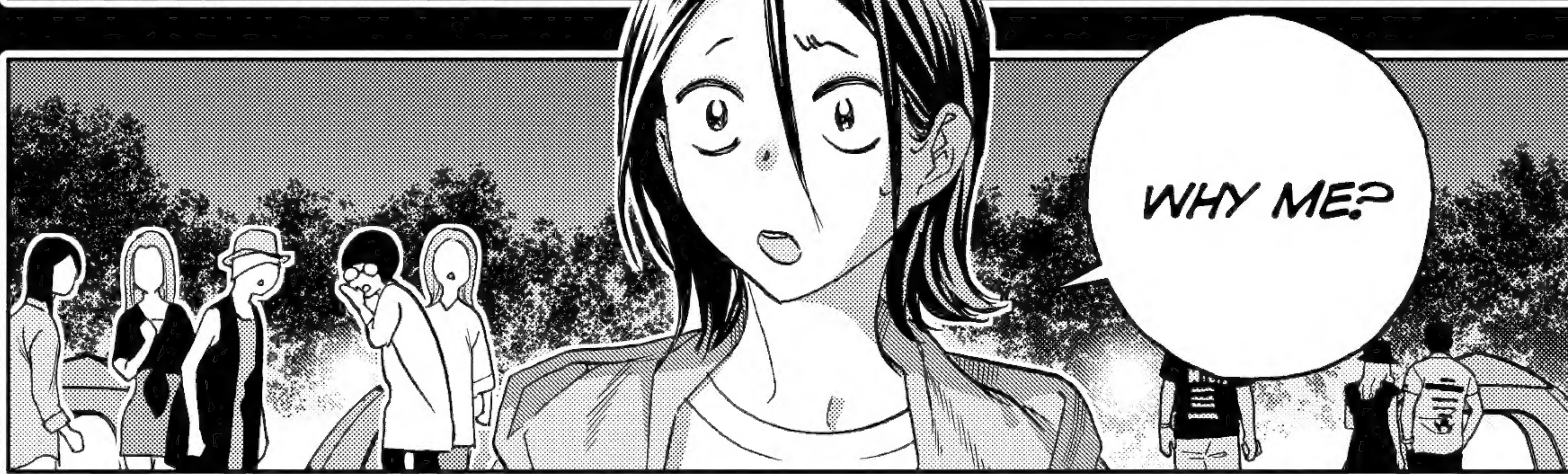
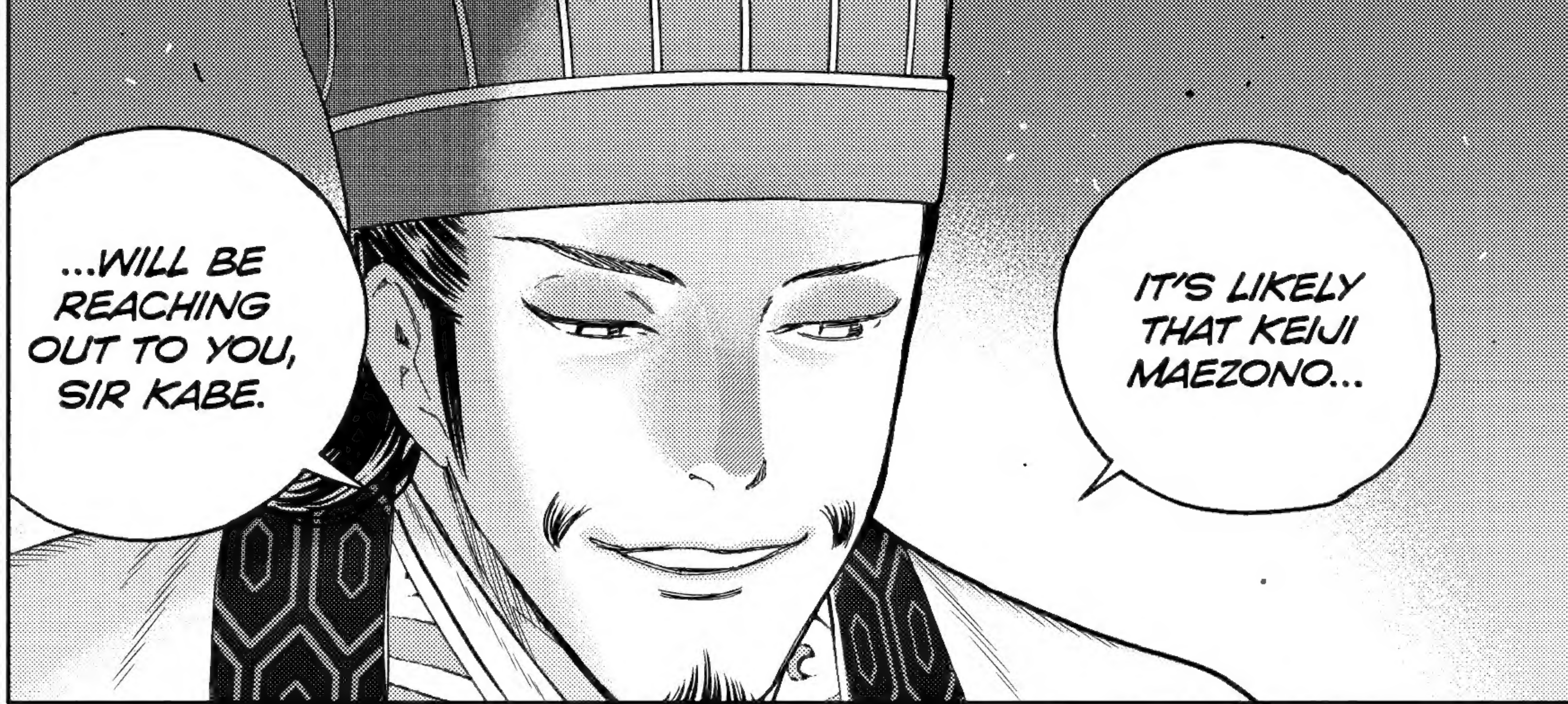
AND
HONESTLY,
THERE'S NO
REASON FOR
US TO EVEN
BE ENEMIES.



SO WHAT?
IT'S NOT LIKE
I *CHOSE*
THIS LIFE.

IT'S TRUE
THAT MY
PARENTS
ARE RICH.





THE
TOP HIP-HOP
HEADS ARE
ALL GOING
TO GATHER
HERE.

THIS
IS JAPAN'S
BIGGEST
MUSIC
FESTIVAL...

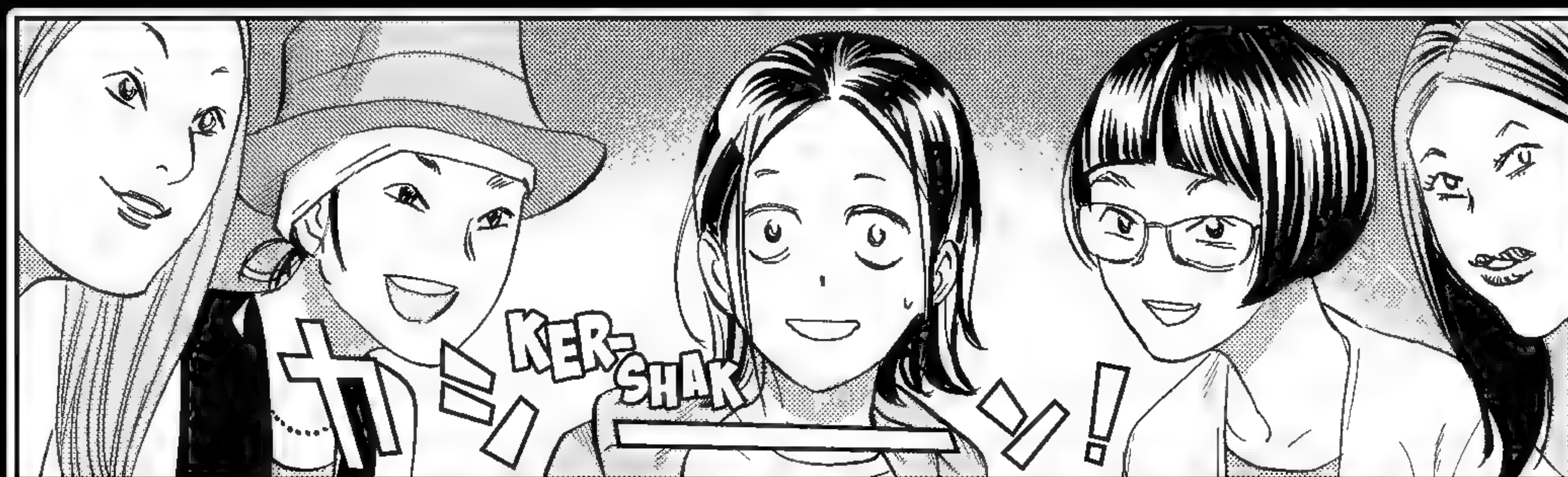
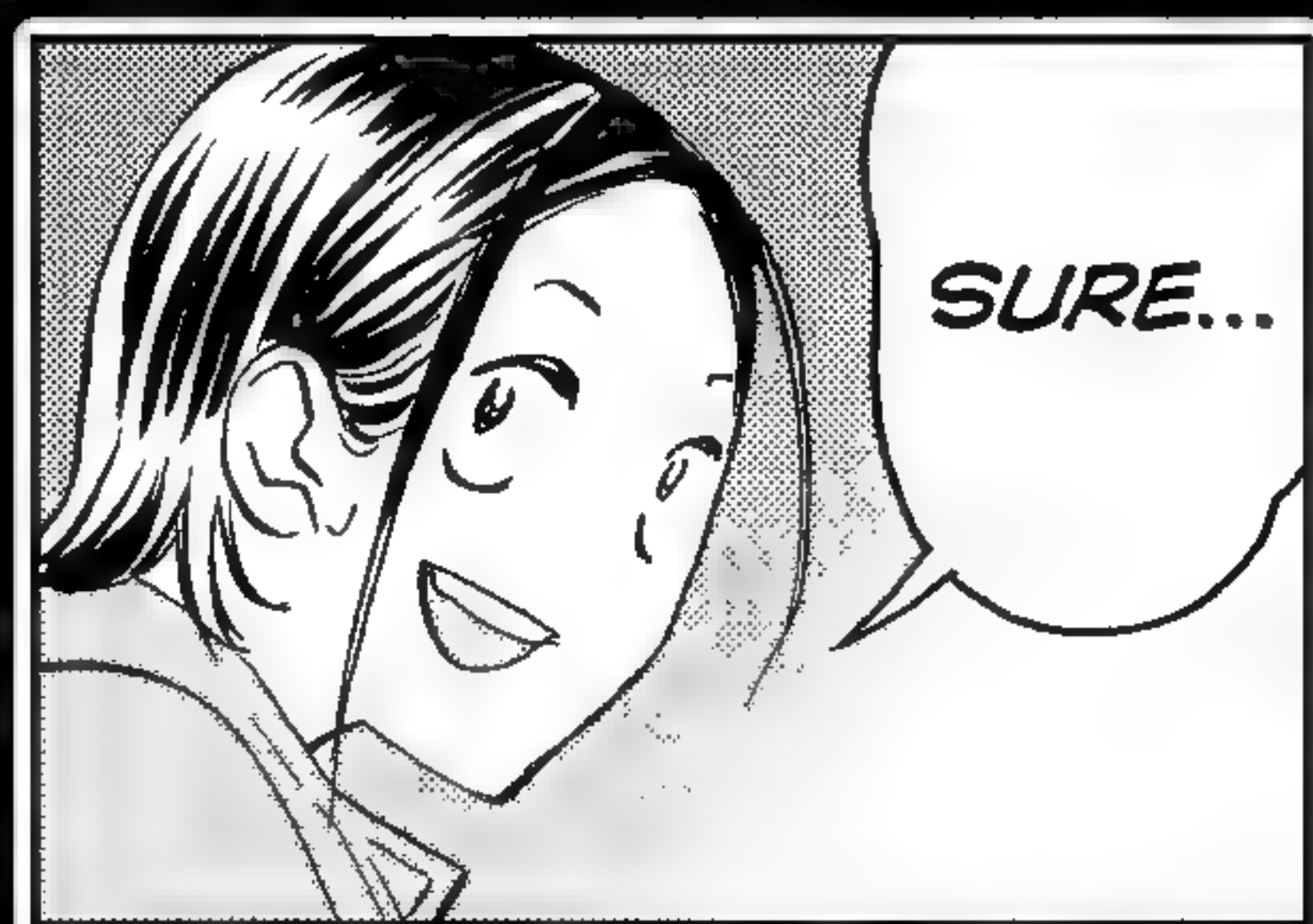
BECAUSE
YOU'RE
POPULAR.

KEIJI
MAEZONO'S
MOST COMMON
STRATEGY IS
TO RECRUIT
ENEMY
FORCES.

...HE CAN
WEAKEN HIS
RIVALS AND
RAISE HIS OWN
REPUTATION.

USING HIS
ABUNDANCE
OF WEALTH...

KRAKLE
KRAKLE



I AGREE
WITH HIM...

HOW-
EVER...

HE DOESN'T
WANT TO CRUMBLE
UNDER PRESSURE
AND BE FORCED
TO TURN SUMMER
SONIA INTO A
SHAM FESTIVAL...

PRODUCER
KONDO...

HENCE,
WE'LL NEED AN
EVEN GRANDER
STRATEGY
TO EMERGE
TRIUMPHANT.

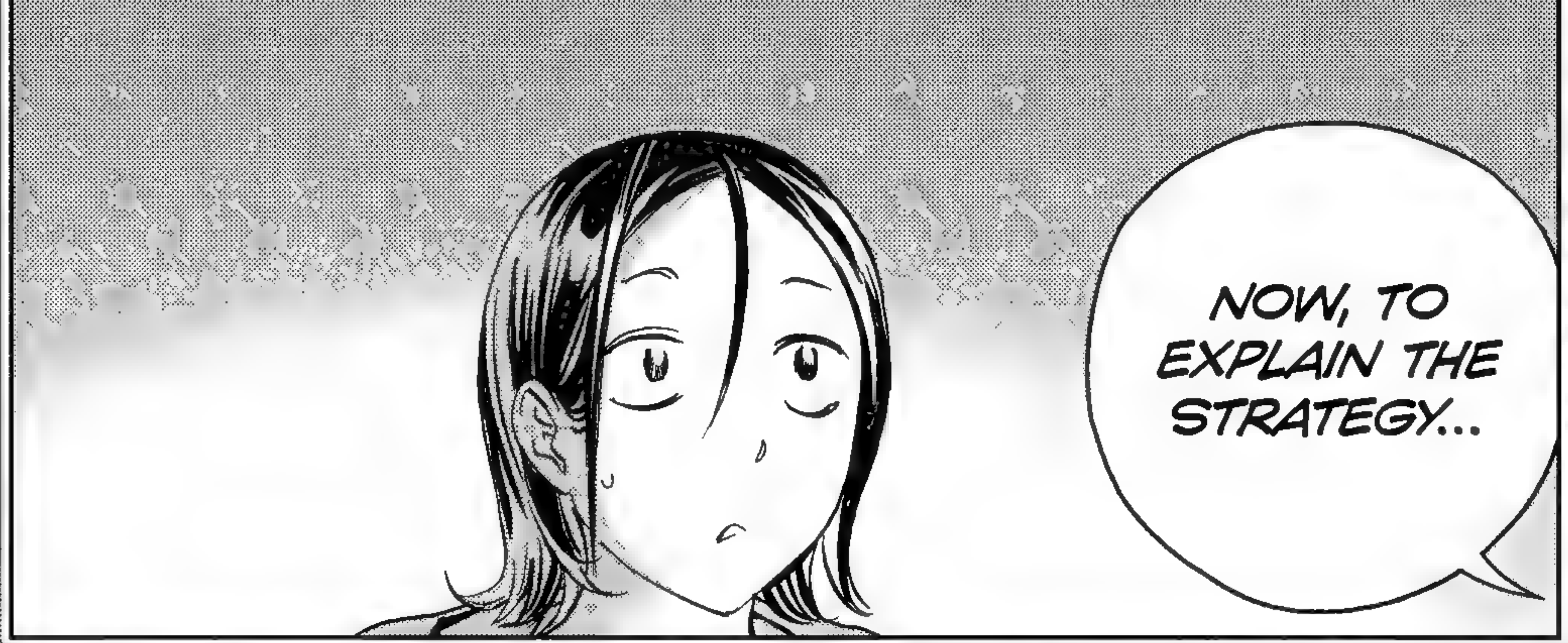
...WE'RE
UNFORTUNATELY
NOT IN THE BEST
POSITION TO
FIGHT THE
UPCOMING
WAR.

110 F
KRAKLE

110 F
KRAKLE

...I'D LIKE
TO ASK YOU
TO PLAY
ALONG.

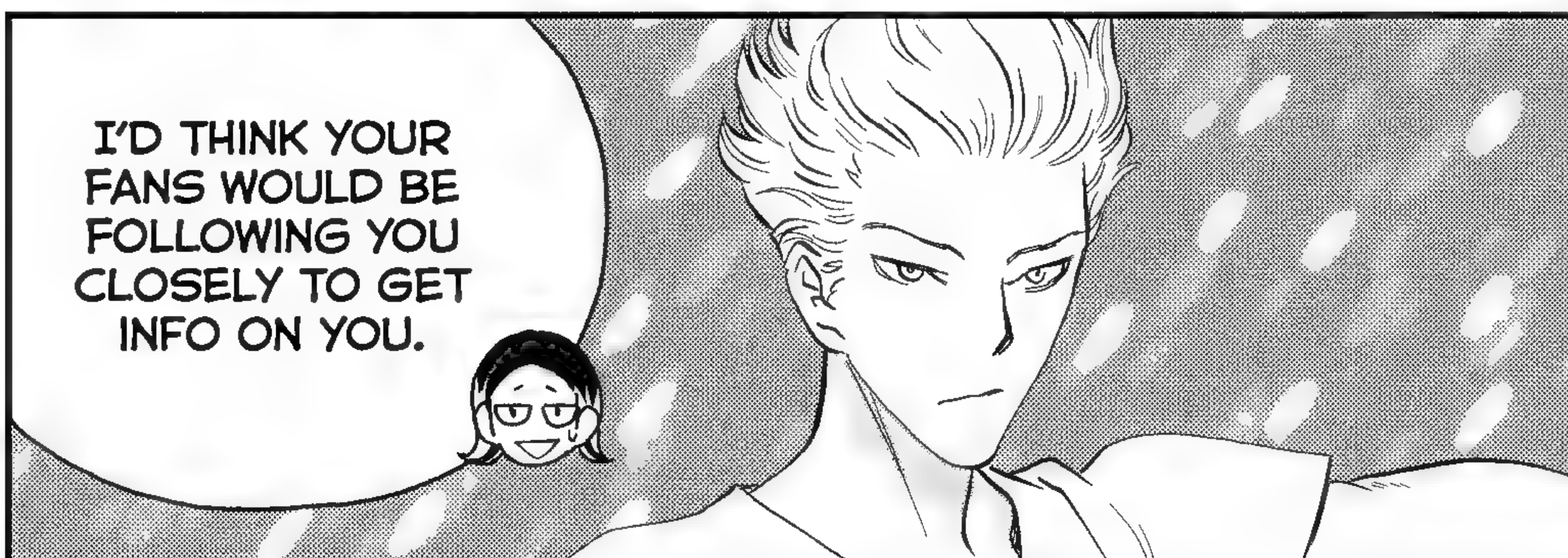
IF KEIJI
MAEZONO
DOES COME
INTO CONTACT
WITH YOU,
SIR KABE...





IT'S A PLACE
WHERE PEOPLE
CAN POST AND
EXCHANGE
INFO. THERE'S
A THREAD FOR
EACH ARTIST.

IT'S MADE
TO BE SIMPLE,
SO THAT EVEN
PEOPLE WHO
DON'T GO TO
FESTIVALS
MUCH CAN
NAVIGATE IT...



I'D THINK YOUR
FANS WOULD BE
FOLLOWING YOU
CLOSELY TO GET
INFO ON YOU.



HMM...



SEE?

THEY CAN
DIRECTLY
CONNECT
WITH OTHER
FANS THAT
CAME TO THE
FESTIVAL...

18: Tokki
It's way hotter than I thought!

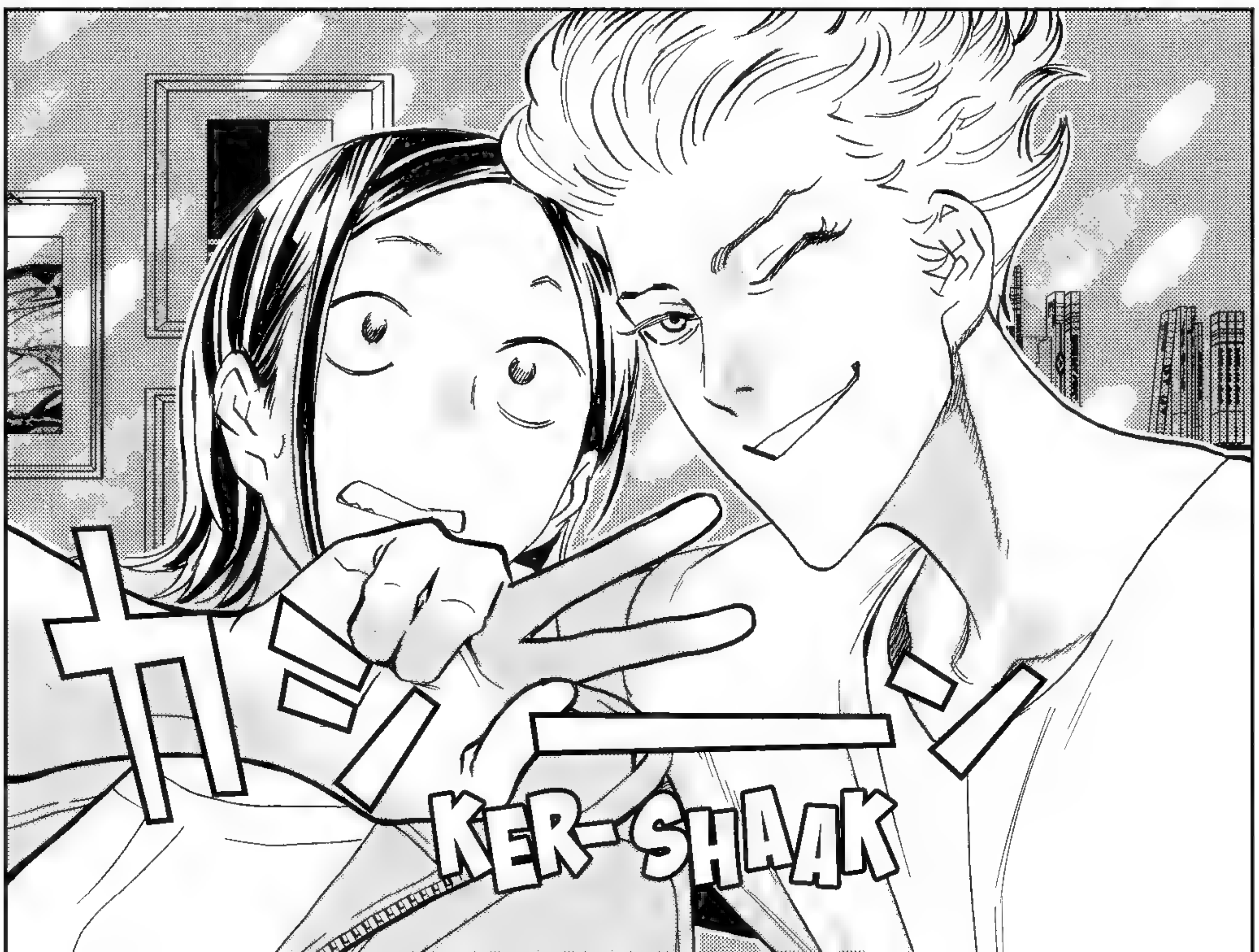
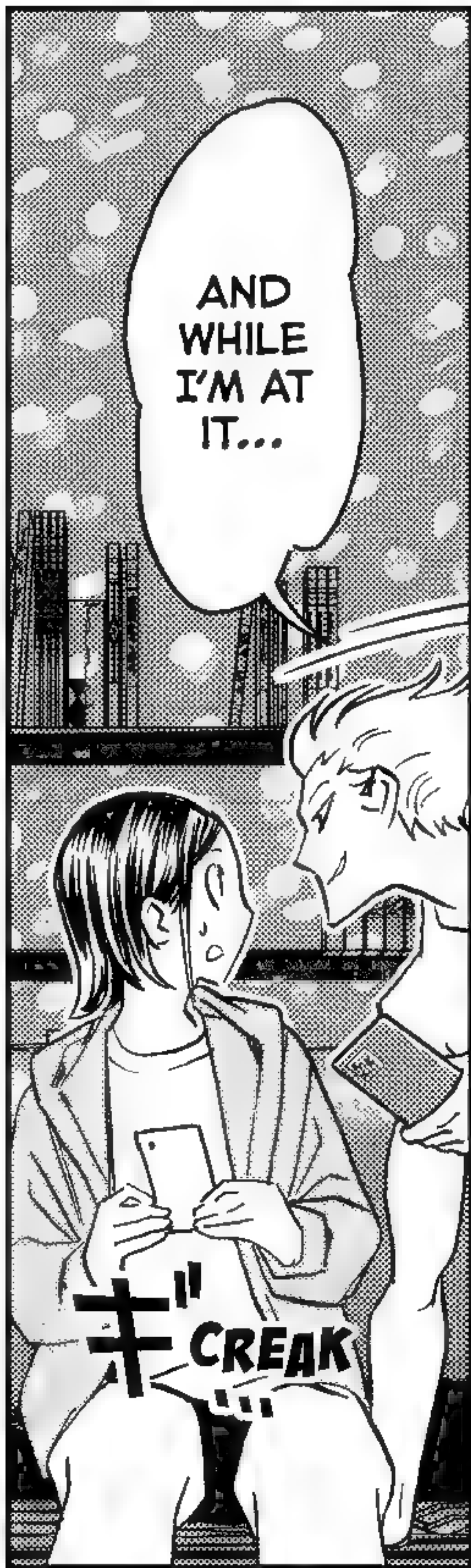
19: KABE
Drink lots of liquids while at
the summer fes!

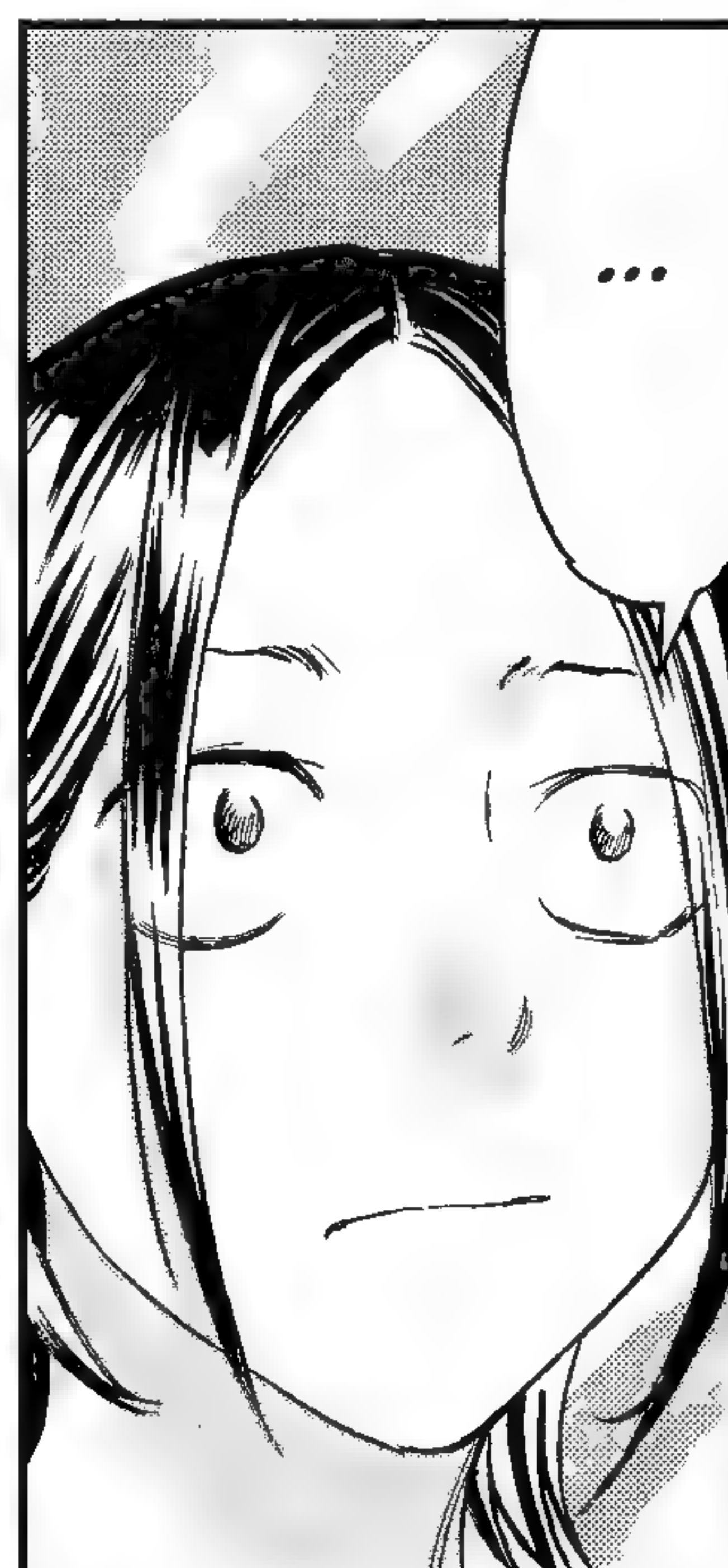
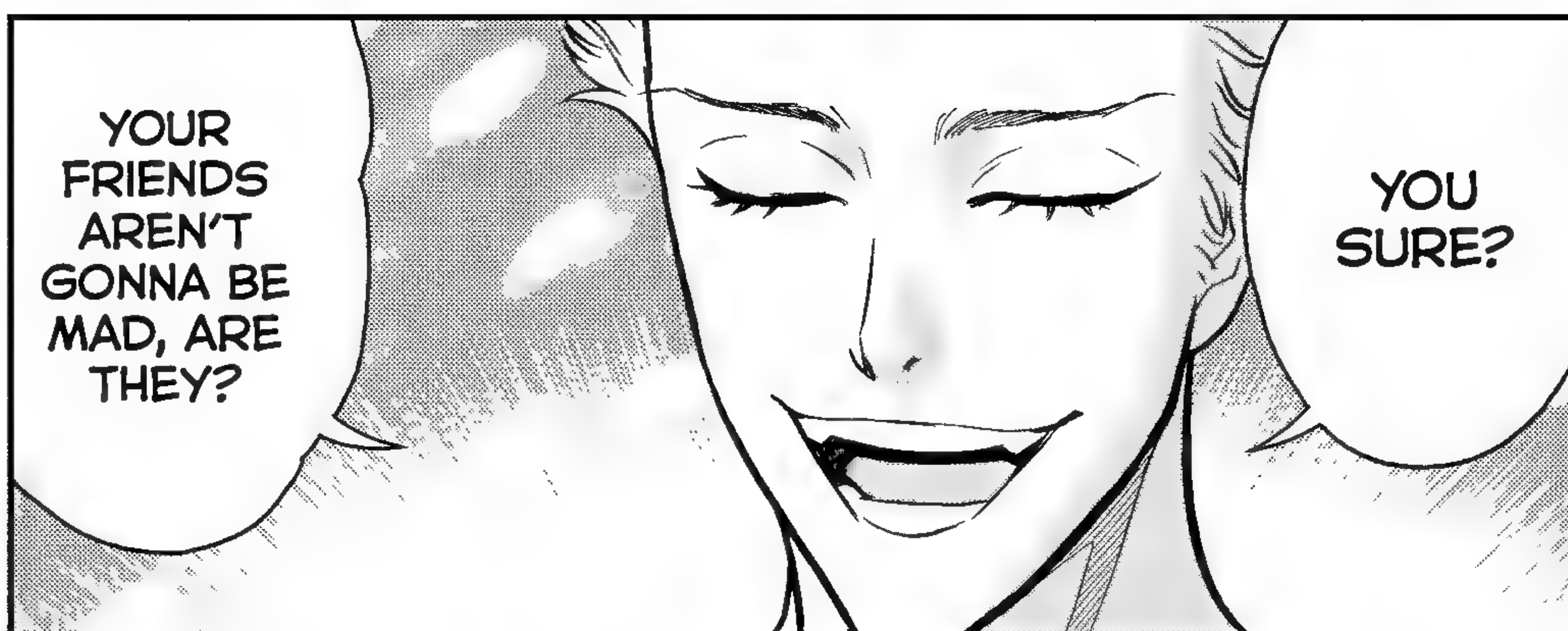
20: A-chin
Remember to drink water!

21: JUJU
Has anyone seen Keiji-sama?

22: L-fujimoto
I saw him after the pre-festival.
He was near the central dining
area.

23: Ue no Kuni
Awww, I'm jealous!







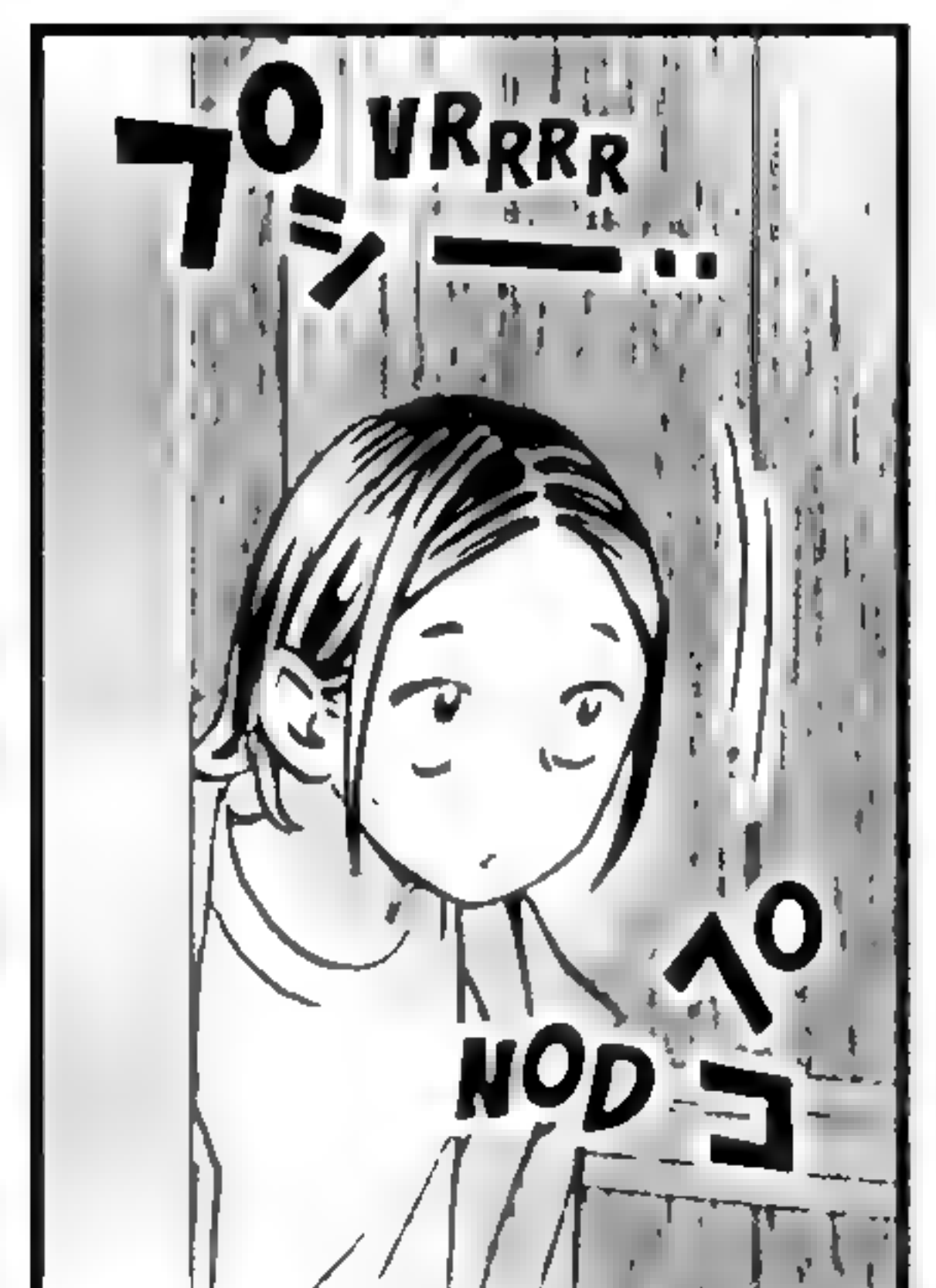
...BUT I
JUST CAN'T
BETRAY MY
FRIENDS.

I'M REALLY
HAPPY THAT
YOU WANTED
ME TO JOIN
YOU...

I'M
SORRY!

I
THOUGHT
AS MUCH!

HMMMM...





**BUT THIS
IS FINE!**



...RIGHT,
KONGMING-
SAN?

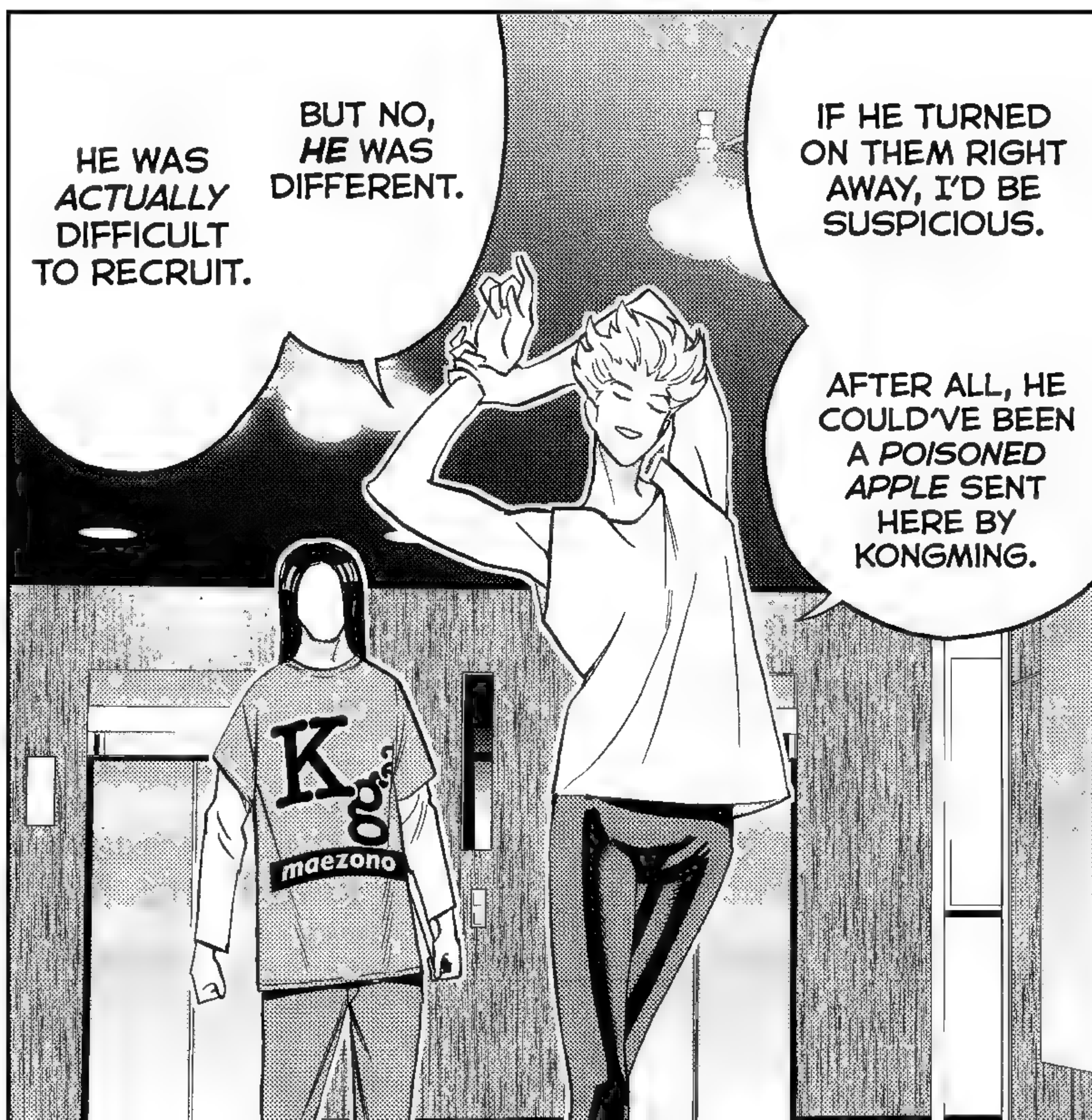
**THIS IS
WHAT YOU
WANTED...**



オオ...
VIRMMMM



**BUT,
WELL...IF
I'M GOING
TO TAKE
SOMEONE,
THEN...**



**HE WAS
ACTUALLY
DIFFICULT
TO RECRUIT.**

**BUT NO,
HE WAS
DIFFERENT.**

**IF HE TURNED
ON THEM RIGHT
AWAY, I'D BE
SUSPICIOUS.**

**AFTER ALL, HE
COULD'VE BEEN
A POISONED
APPLE SENT
HERE BY
KONGMING.**

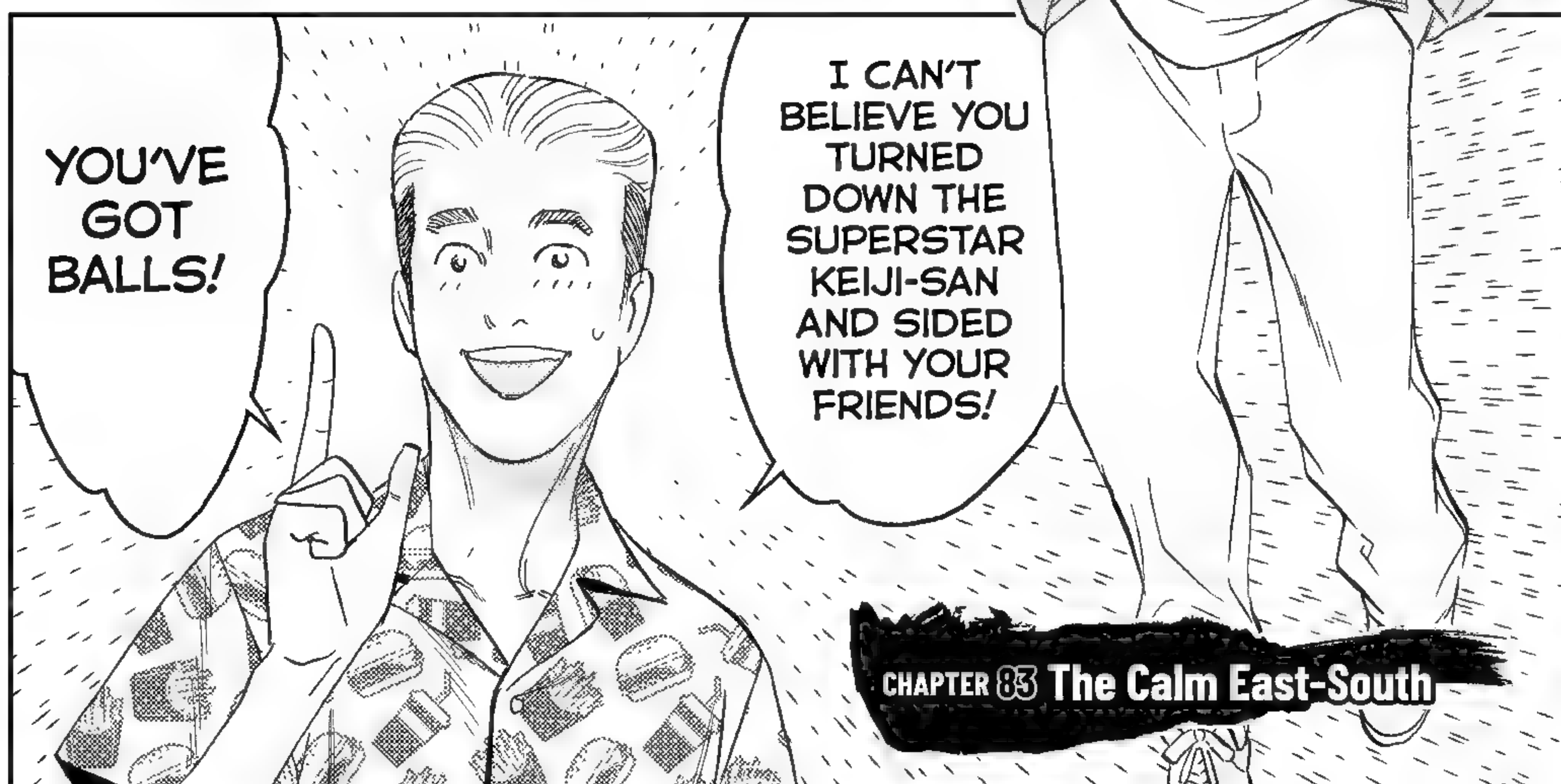


1971
Boy
Knows
Nothing!



DINER-SAN.

KABE!



YOU'VE
GOT
BALLS!

I CAN'T
BELIEVE YOU
TURNED
DOWN THE
SUPERSTAR
KEIJI-SAN
AND SIDED
WITH YOUR
FRIENDS!

CHAPTER 83 The Calm East-South



SURE, I
GUESS...

UHH...



HEY, MIND
INTRODUCING
YOUR FRIENDS
TO ME?



I WAS JUST
FOLLOWING
KONGMING-
SAN'S
INSTRUC-
TIONS...

UH,
WELL...



THE SEVEN
MANSIONS
OF THE
NORTH...
THE BLACK
TORTOISE
FORM!

DOU,
NIU, NU,
XU, WEI,
SHI, BI!

THE
SEVEN
MANSIONS
OF THE
EAST...
THE AZURE
DRAGON
FORM!

JIAO,
KANG,
DI,
FANG,
XIN,
WEI,
JI!*



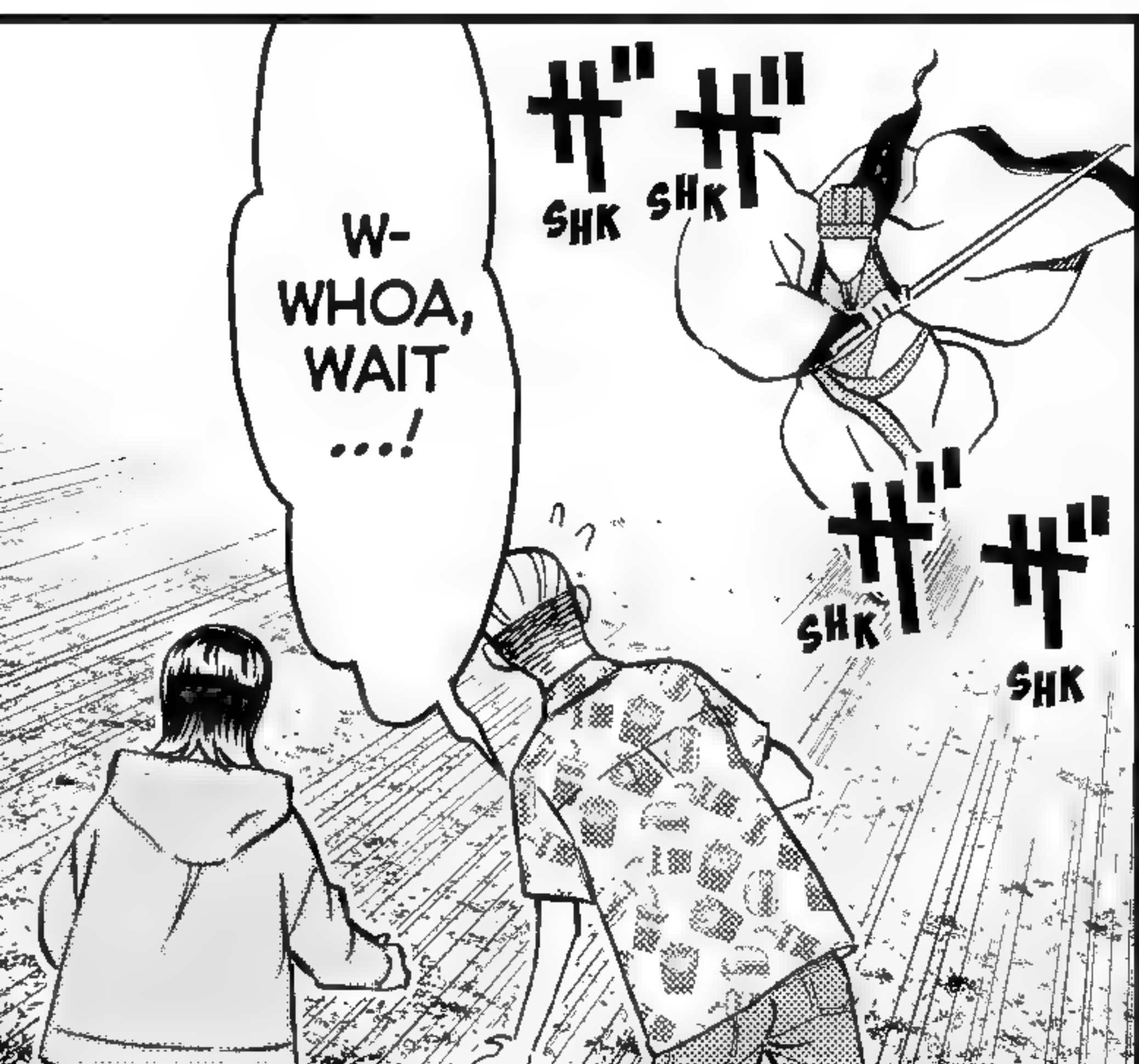
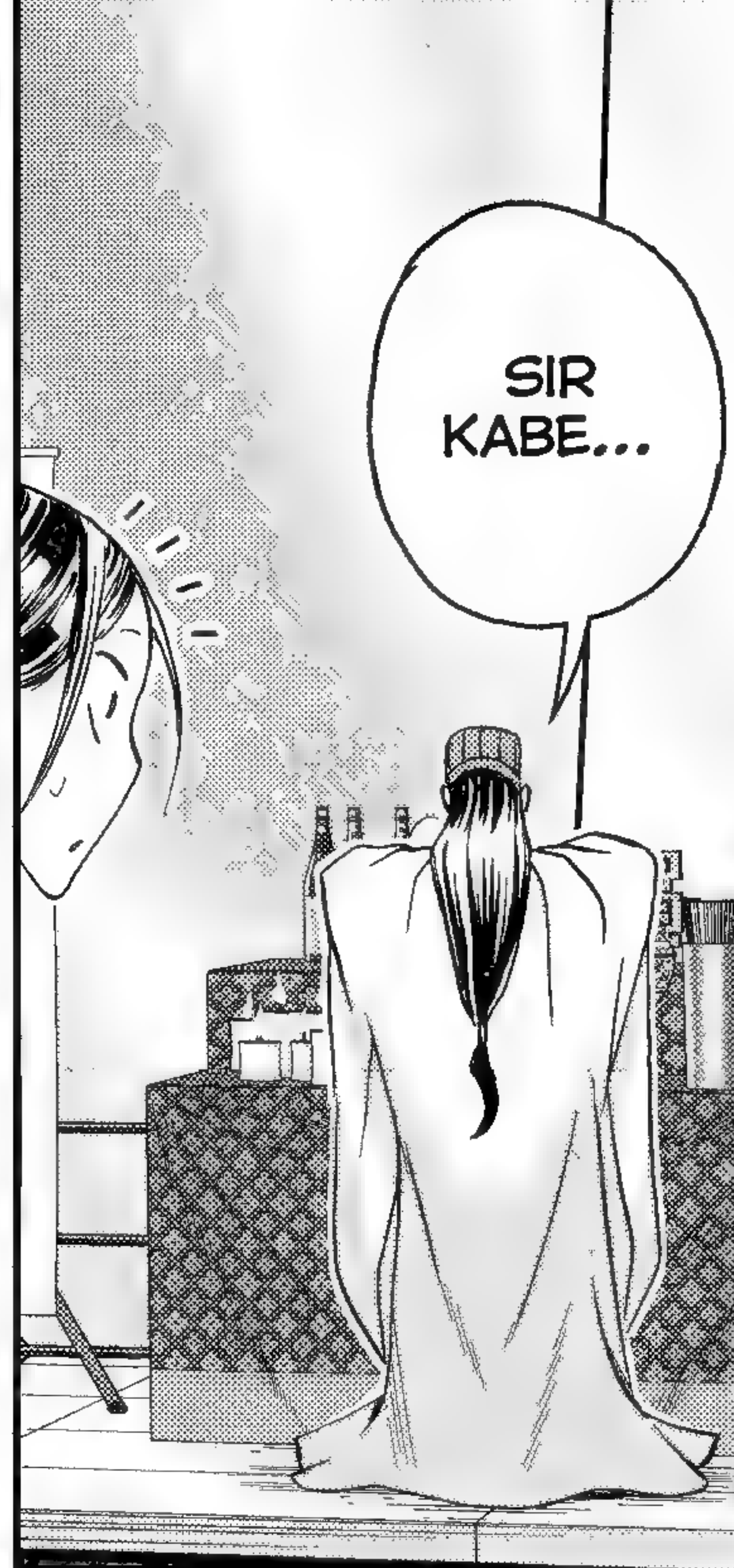
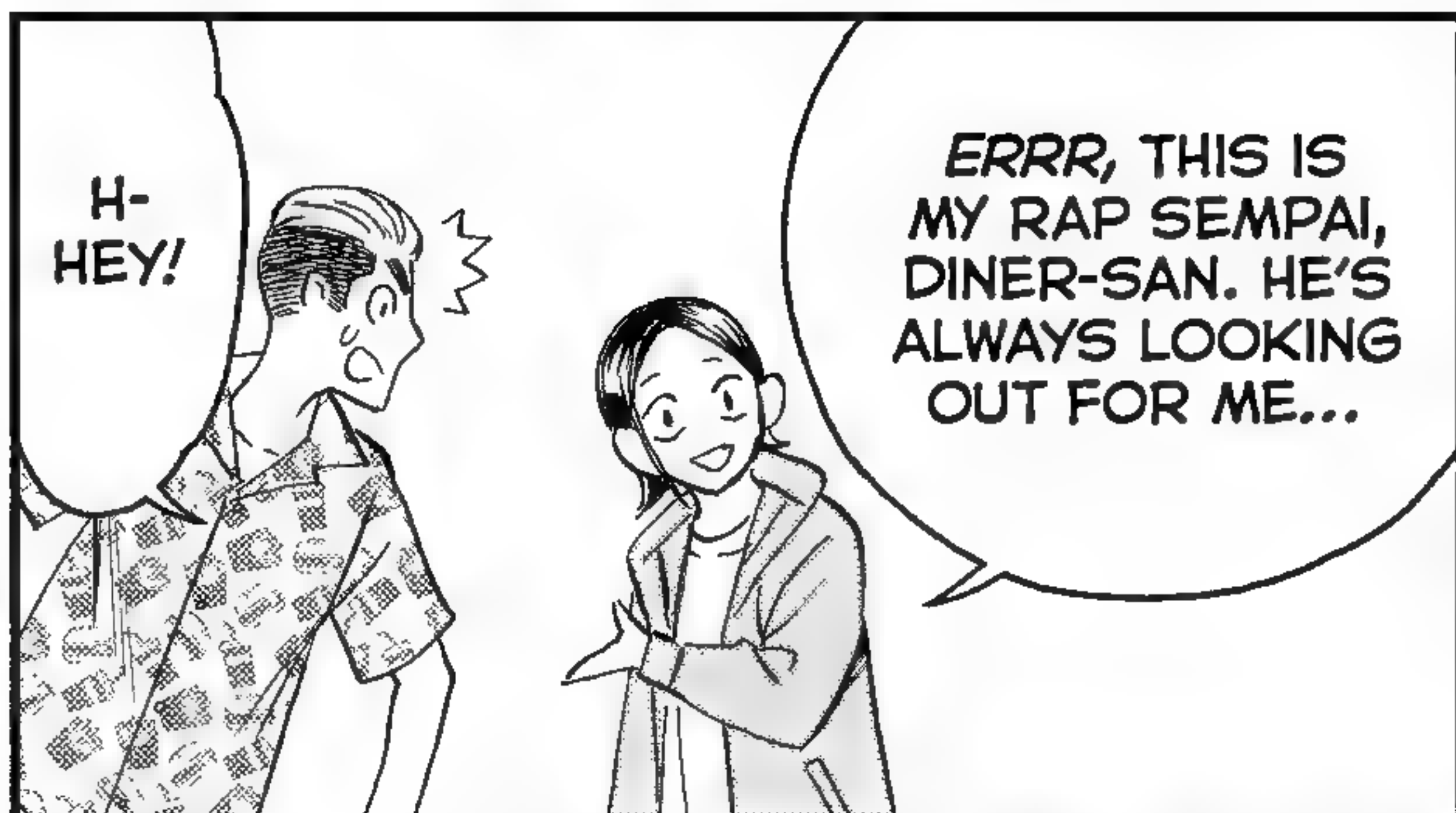
HE'S EIKO'S
MANAGER.

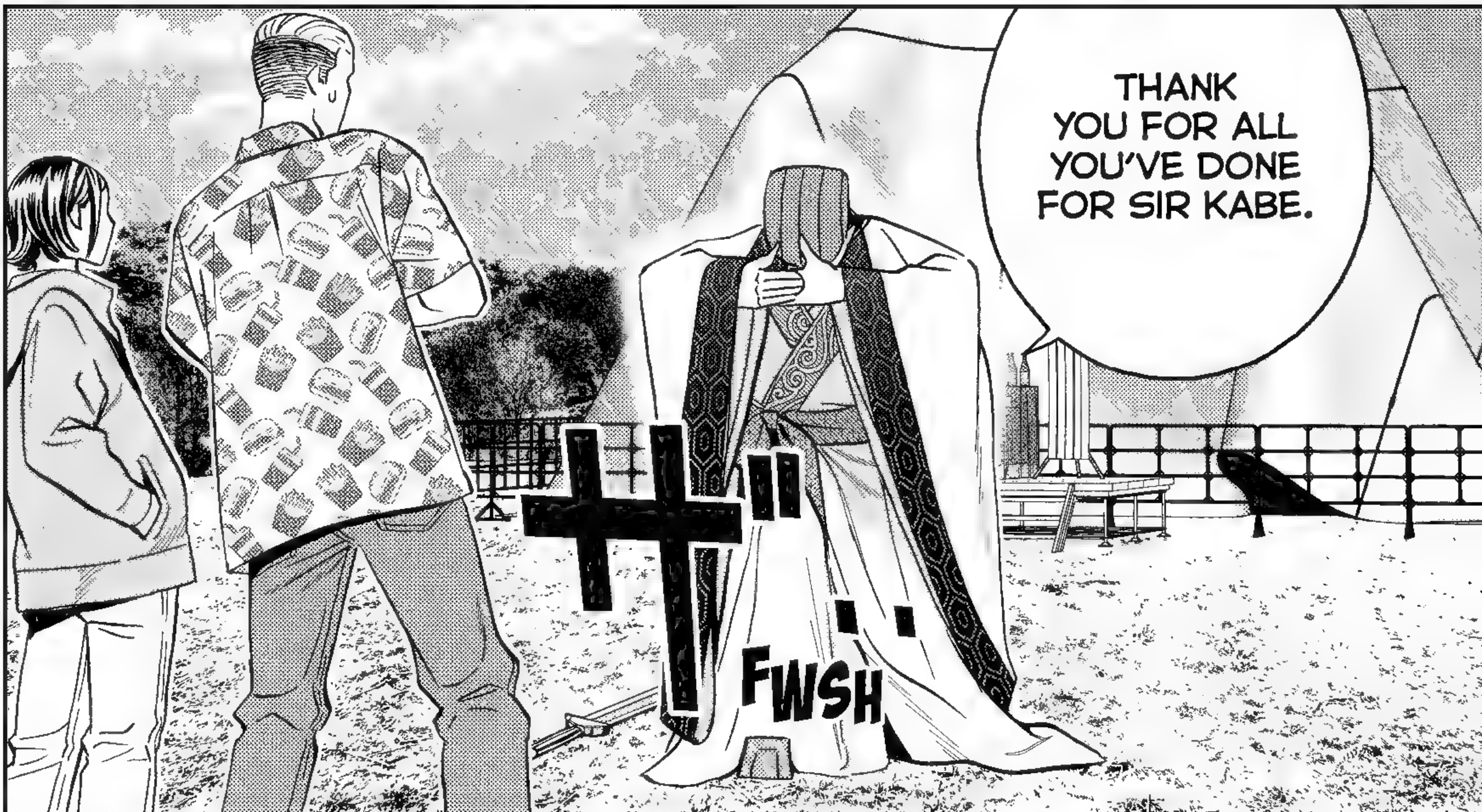
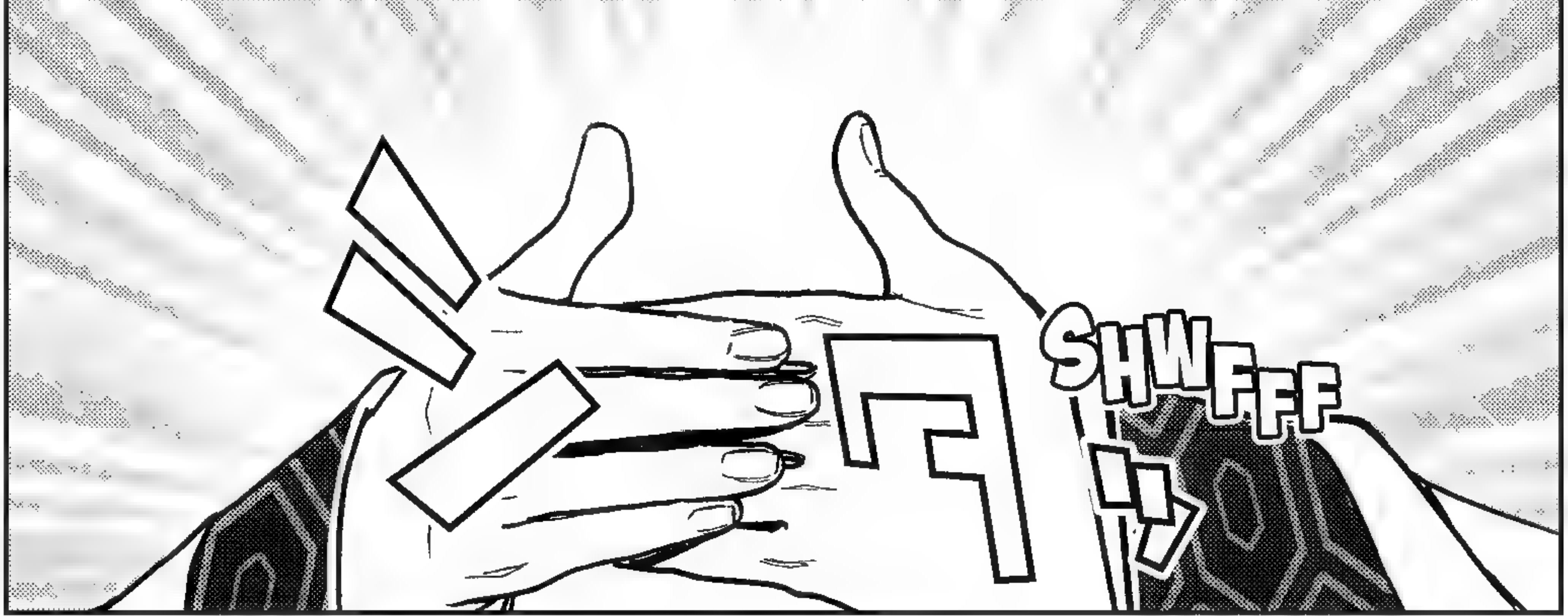
THAT'S...
YOUR FRIEND?
ARE YOU SURE
YOU'RE NOT
BEING TRICKED?

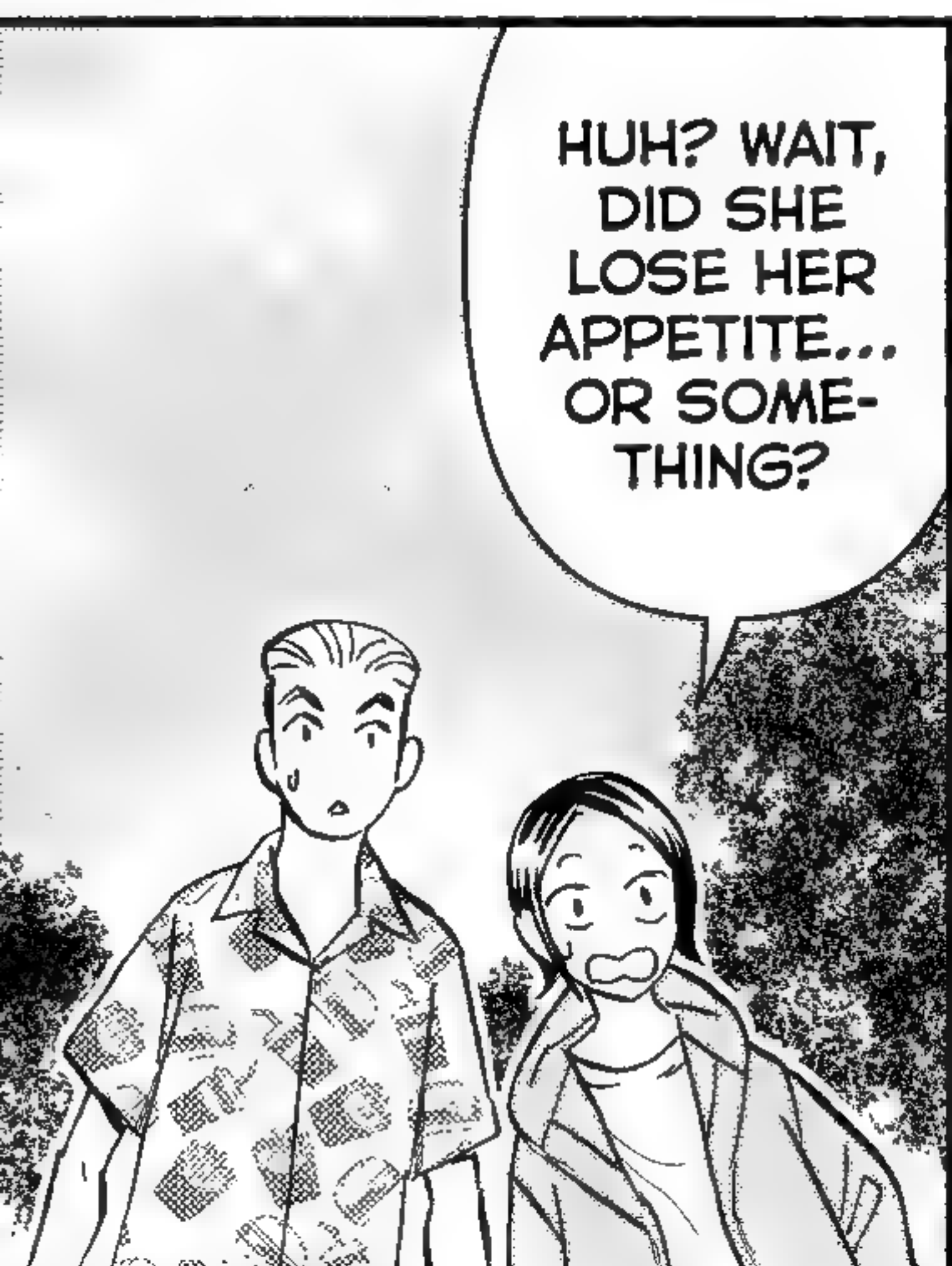
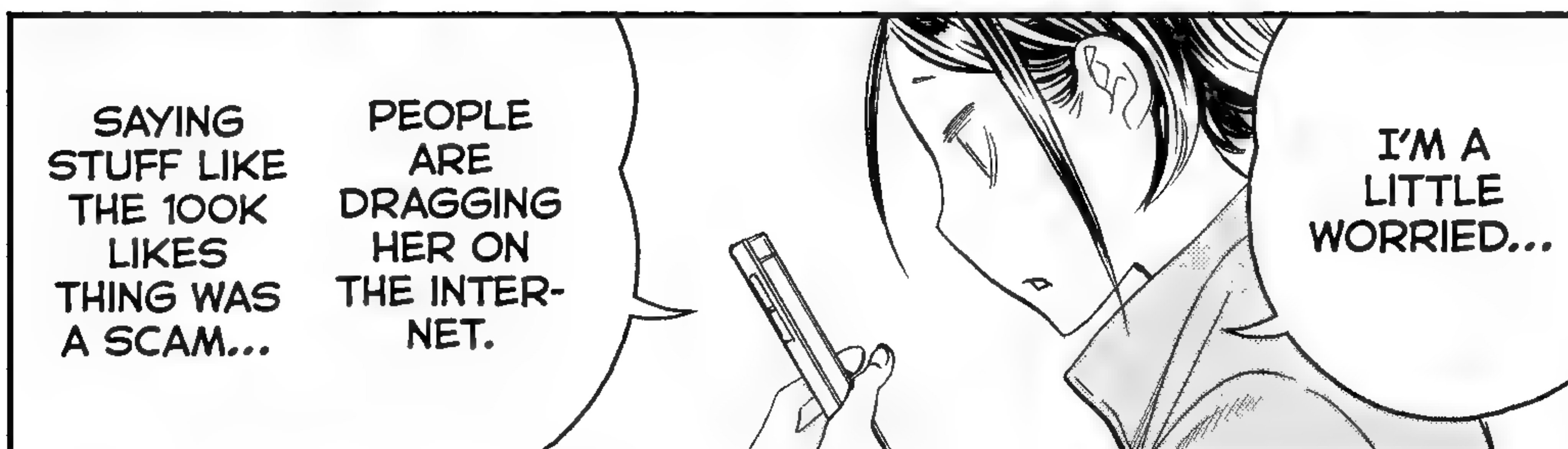


RMM
MBL

*CHINESE ASTROLOGY IS DIVIDED INTO 28 INDIVIDUAL
CONSTELLATIONS WHICH BELONG TO FOUR REGIONS:
THE AZURE DRAGON OF THE EAST, THE BLACK TORTOISE
OF THE NORTH, THE WHITE TIGER OF THE WEST, AND
THE VERMILION BIRD OF THE SOUTH. THESE STARS
CAN BE USED FOR DIVINATION.







**SUMMER
SONIA'S
FAMOUS
BIG CHICKEN
SANDWICH
TASTES
SOOOO
GOOD!!**

AND IS
RECUPERATING
AS WE SPEAK.

...SHE
SEEMS TO BE
UNAFFECTED
BY THE
NEGATIVITY...



HEH...



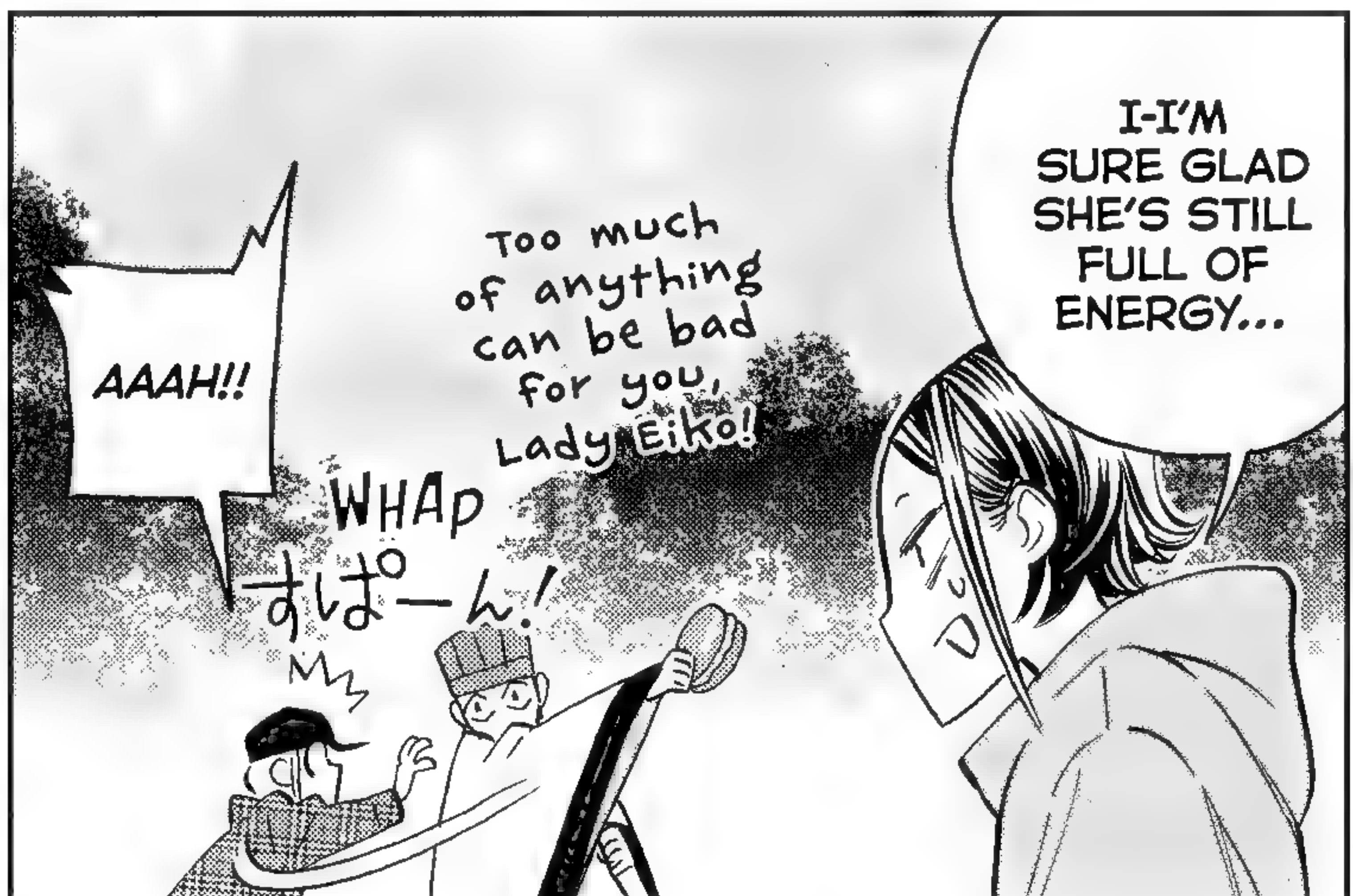
AAAH!!

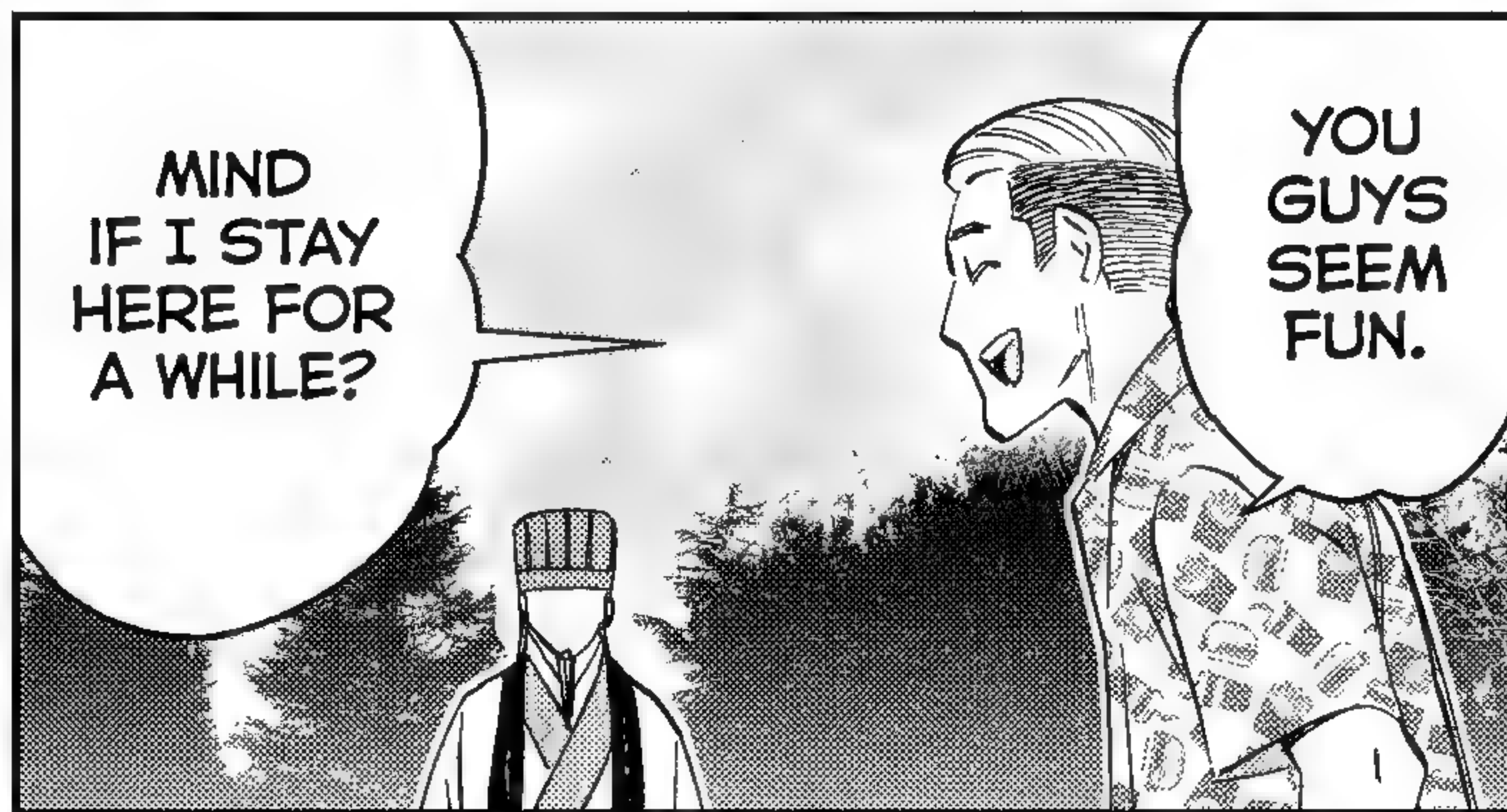
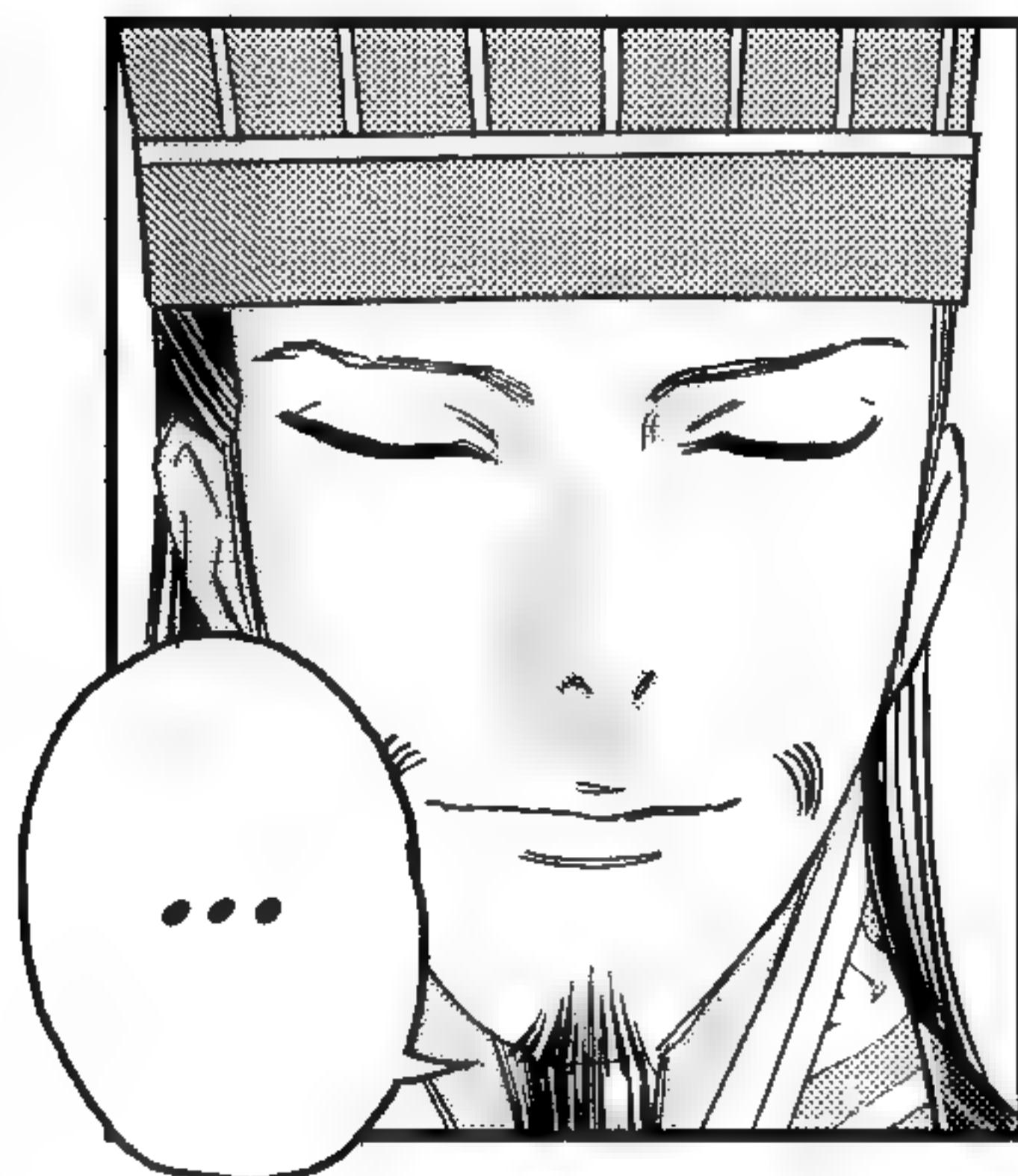
WHAP

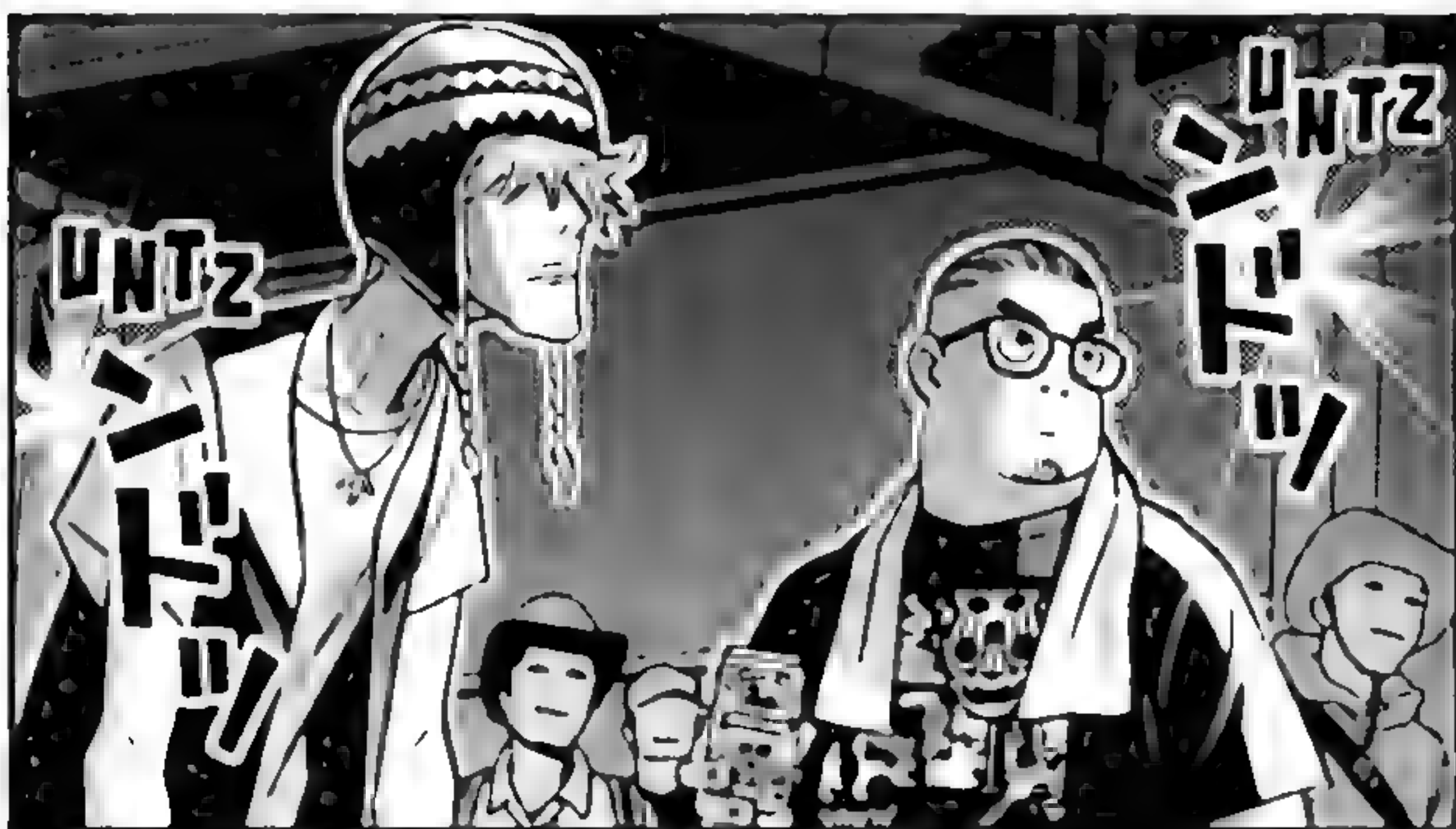
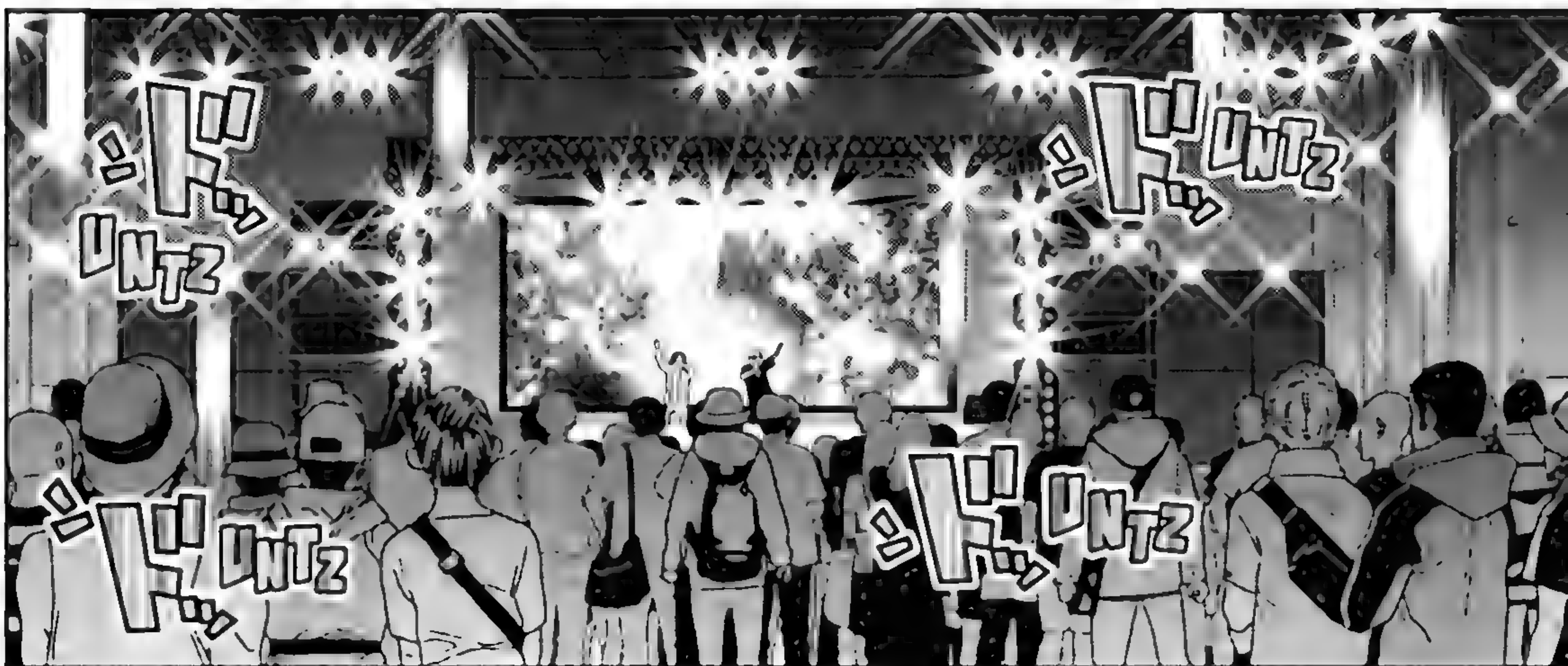
うはーん!

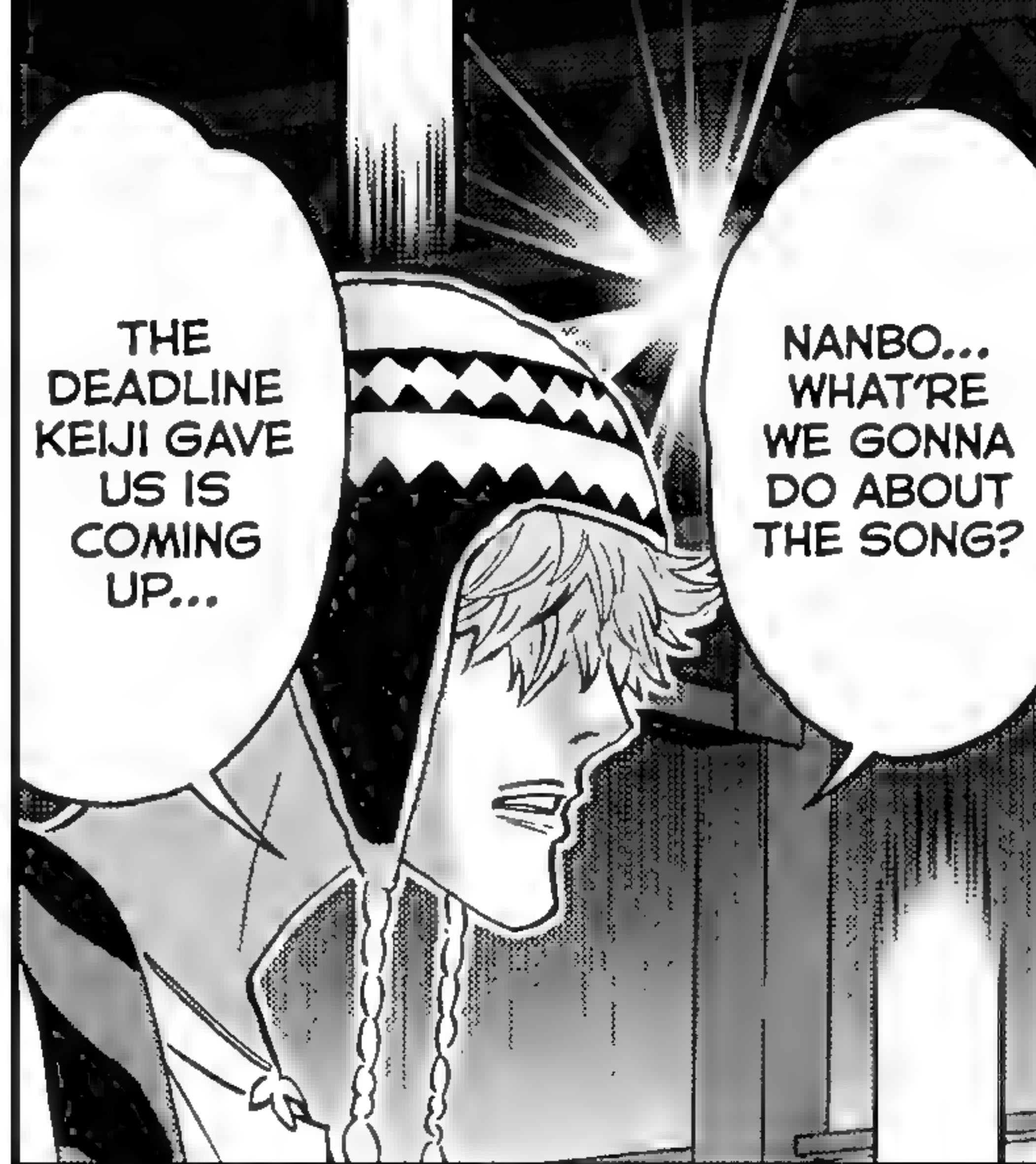
Too much
of anything
can be bad
for you,
Lady Eiko!

I-I'M
SURE GLAD
SHE'S STILL
FULL OF
ENERGY...









RIVER SIDE STAGE

...SOLD
OUR FUTURE
TO HIM.

WE'VE
ALREADY...

YOUR
SONGS ARE
GOOD, BUT
THEY LACK
PIZZAZZ!

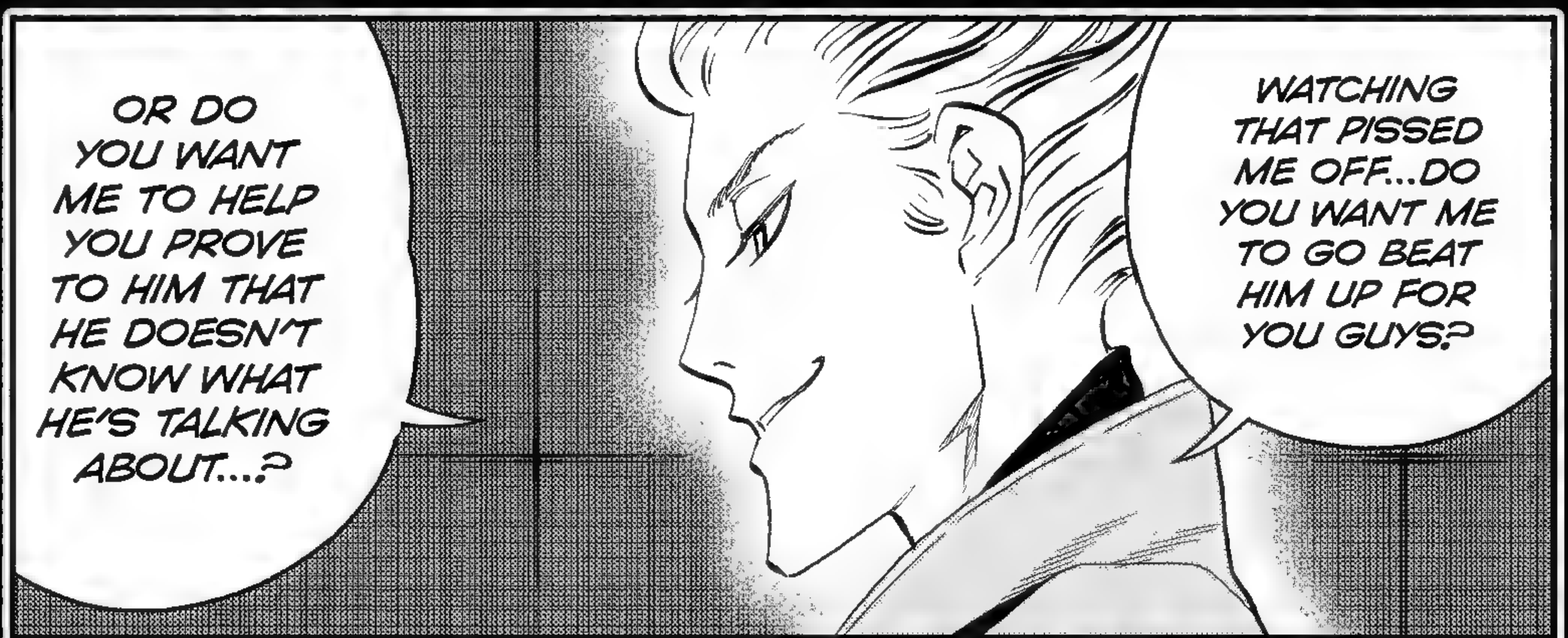
WE'VE SEEN
KEIJI MAEZONO
ON TV BEFORE.
BUT OUR FIRST
IMPRESSION OF HIM
IN-PERSON WAS...
TERRIBLE.

WUH?



THAT
WHOLE,
"YOU
TWO WILL
NEVER BE
POPULAR"
THING.

THE MANAGER
OF THIS PLACE
WAS PRETTY
MEAN JUST
NOW, HUH?

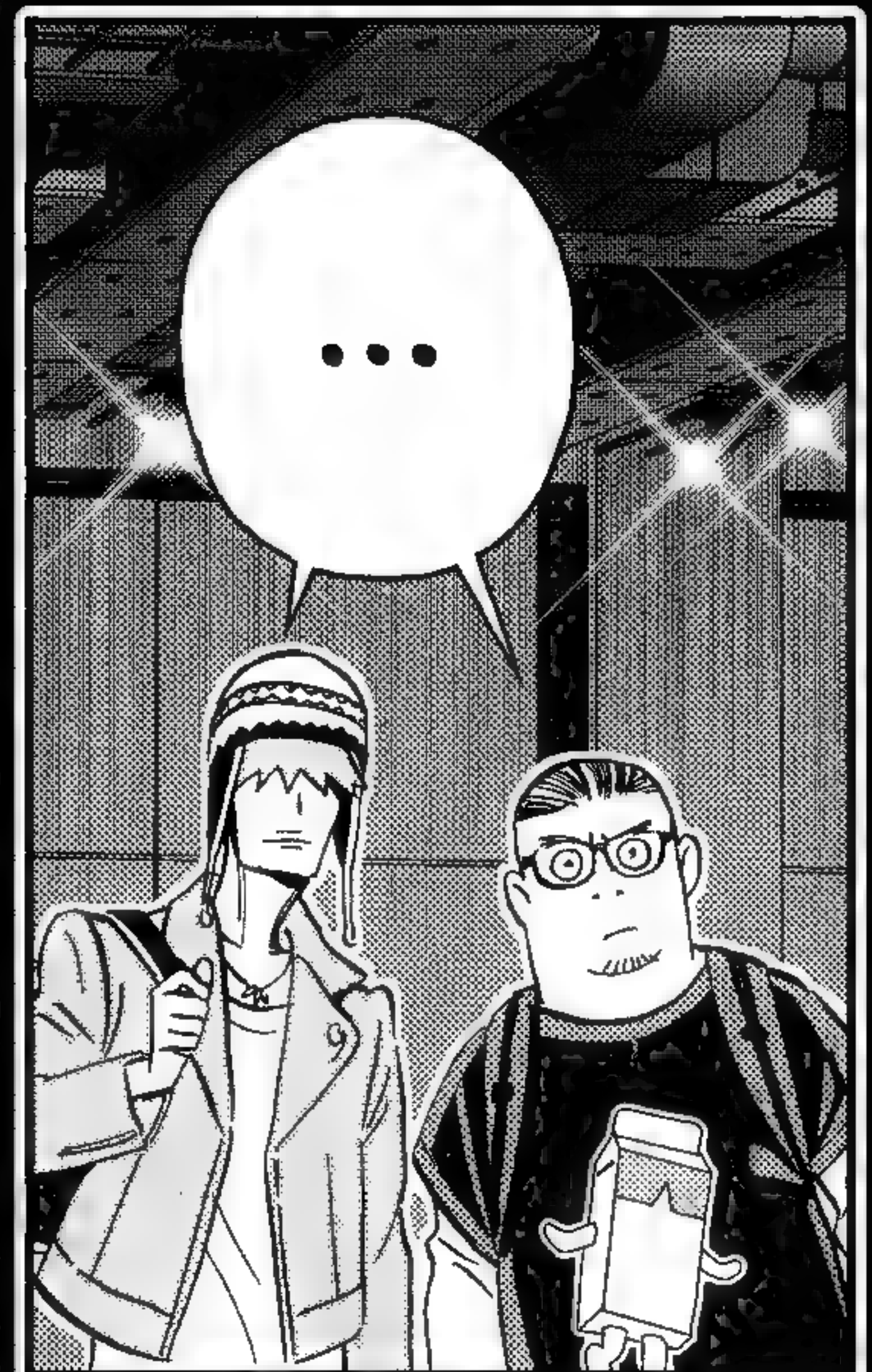


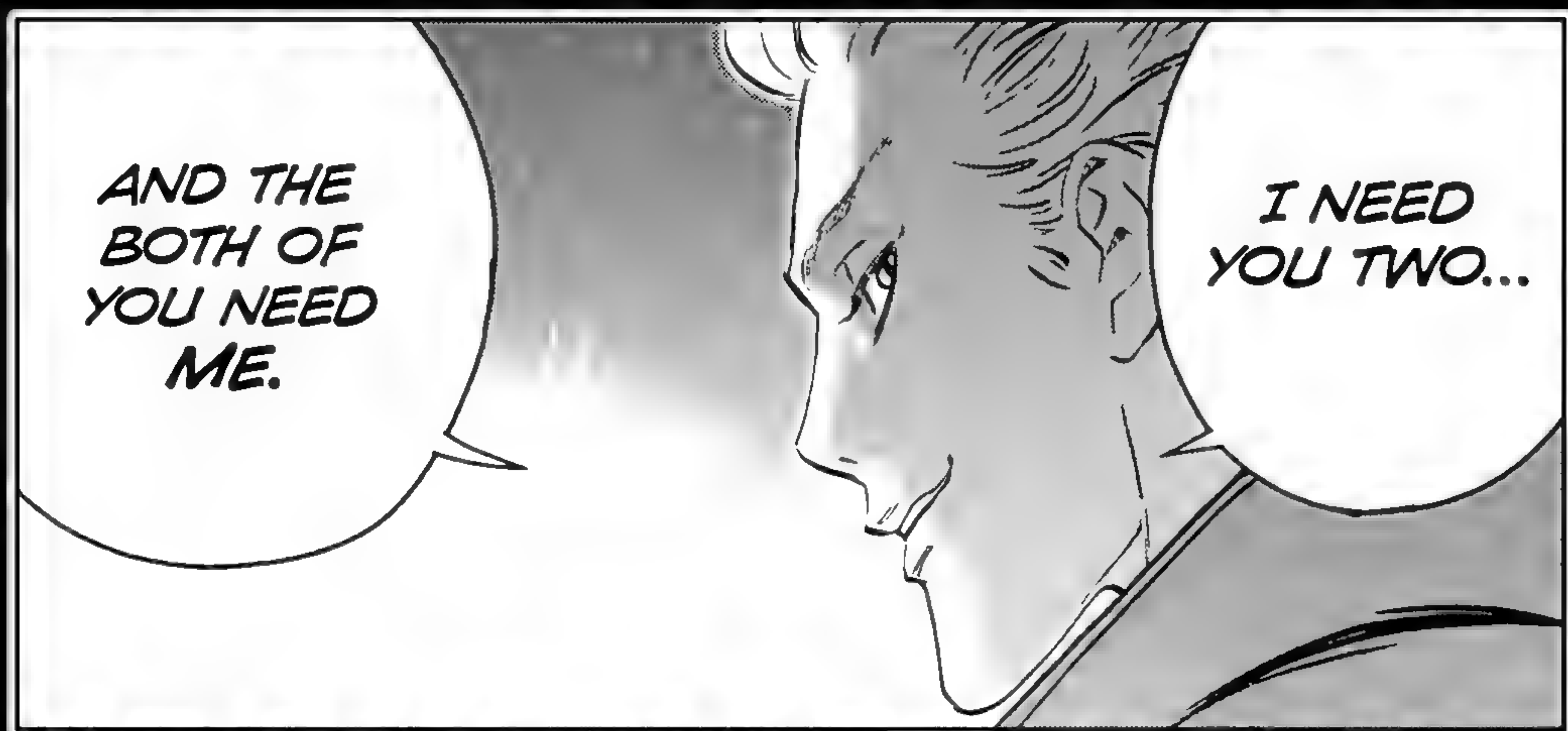
OR DO
YOU WANT
ME TO HELP
YOU PROVE
TO HIM THAT
HE DOESN'T
KNOW WHAT
HE'S TALKING
ABOUT...?

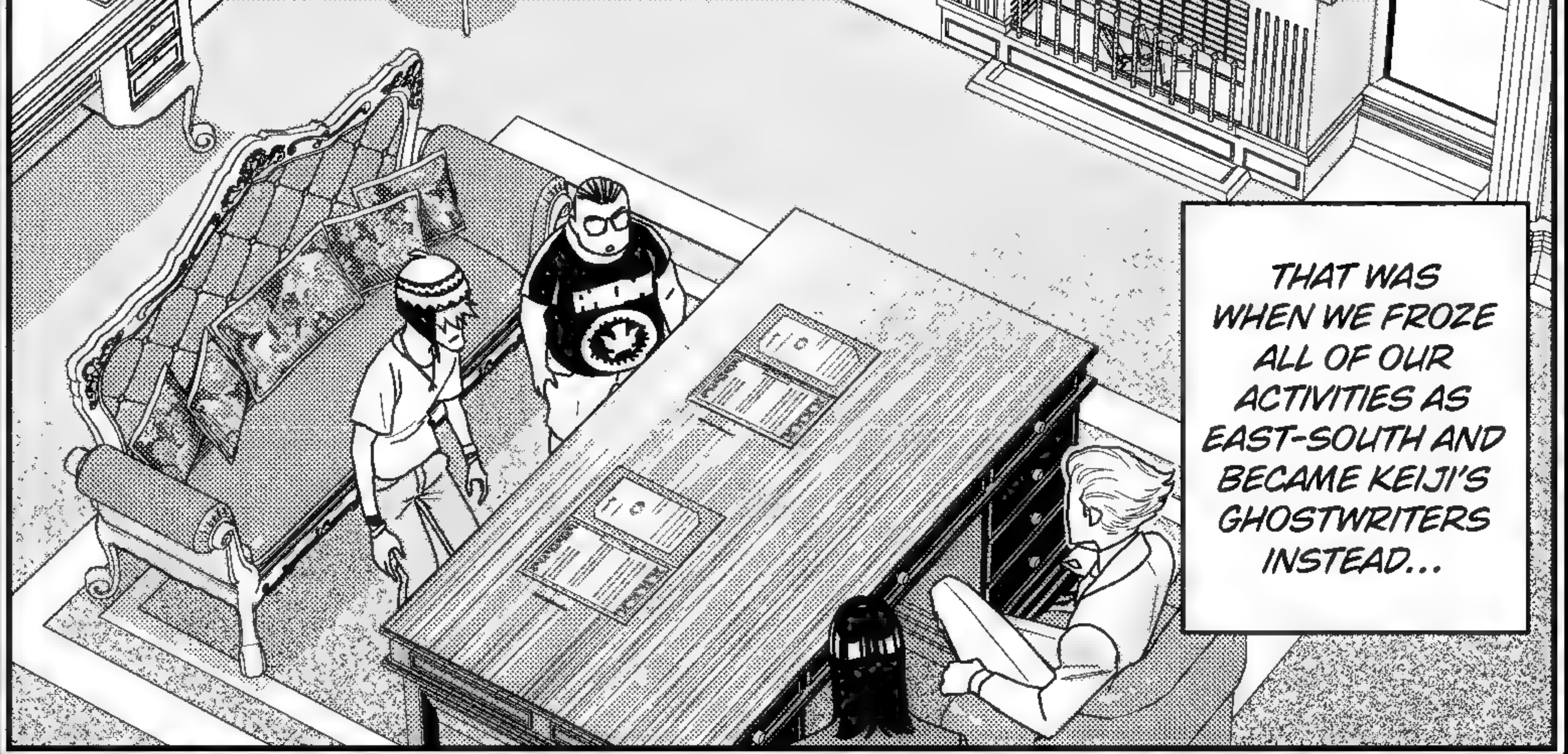
WATCHING
THAT PISSED
ME OFF...DO
YOU WANT ME
TO GO BEAT
HIM UP FOR
YOU GUYS?



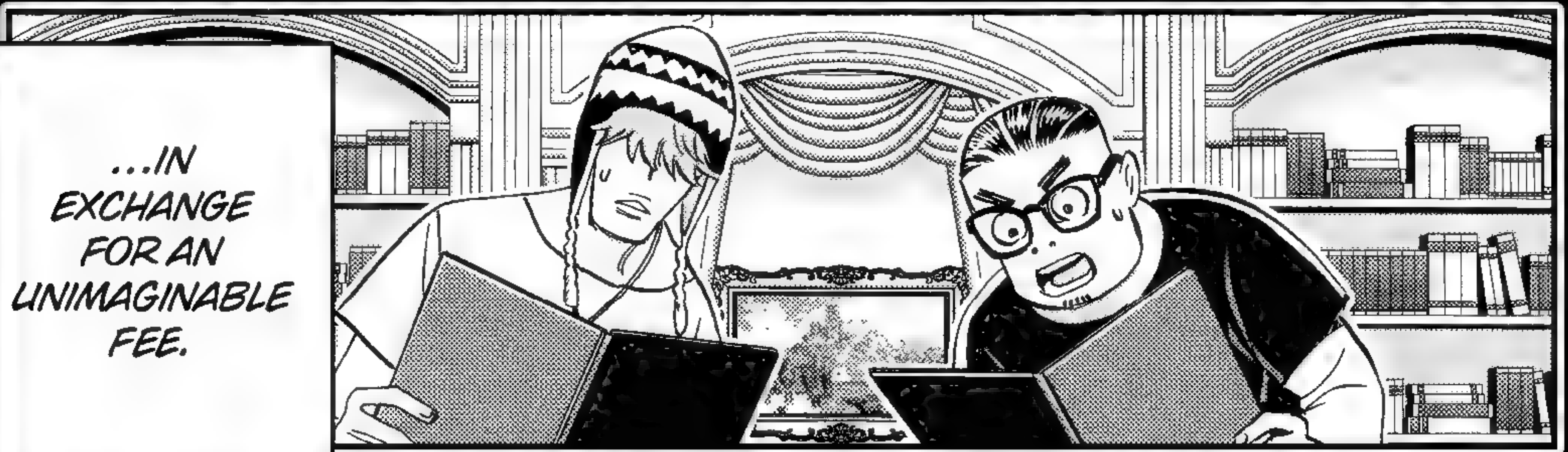
THAT WAS
WHEN WE
DECIDED TO
OFFER OUR
SONGS TO
KEIJI.







THAT WAS
WHEN WE FROZE
ALL OF OUR
ACTIVITIES AS
EAST-SOUTH AND
BECAME KEIJI'S
GHOSTWRITERS
INSTEAD...



...IN
EXCHANGE
FOR AN
UNIMAGINABLE
FEE.



I'M
GONNA GO
SEE THAT
KONDO
GUY.

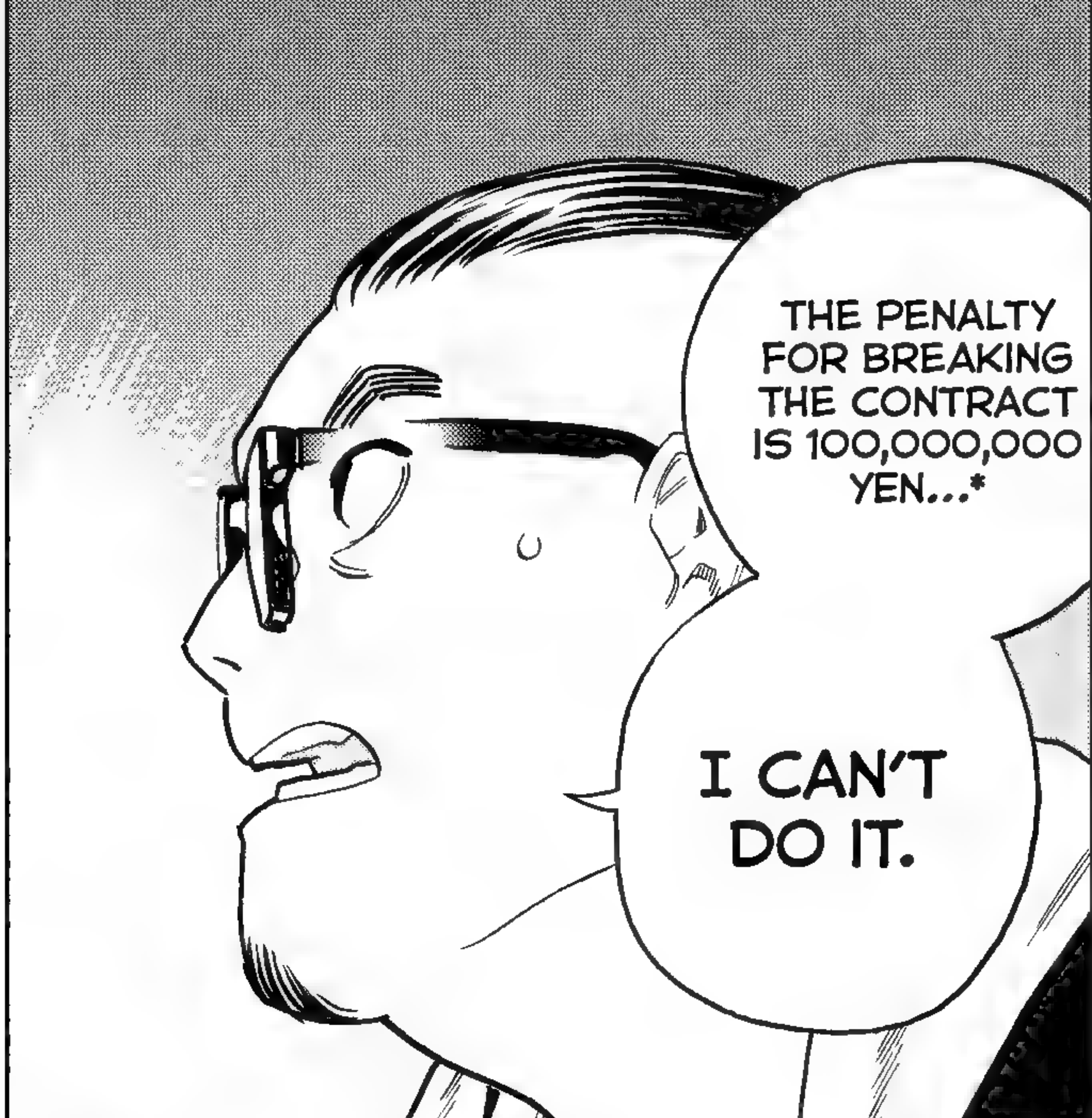
I
THINK...



IT SAID, "I
KNOW YOUR
SECRET"...

WHAT?!

I GOT A
MESSAGE FROM
KONDO, THE
PRODUCER OF
SUMMER SONIA,
WHO SAID HE
WANTS TO
MEET US.



THE PENALTY
FOR BREAKING
THE CONTRACT
IS 100,000,000
YEN...*

I CAN'T
DO IT.



I'VE
ALREADY
GIVEN
UP!

WE'RE
BOUND
BY A
CON-
TRACT.

DON'T
DO IT.

*100 YEN IS ABOUT \$ 1 USD.



TRUE...

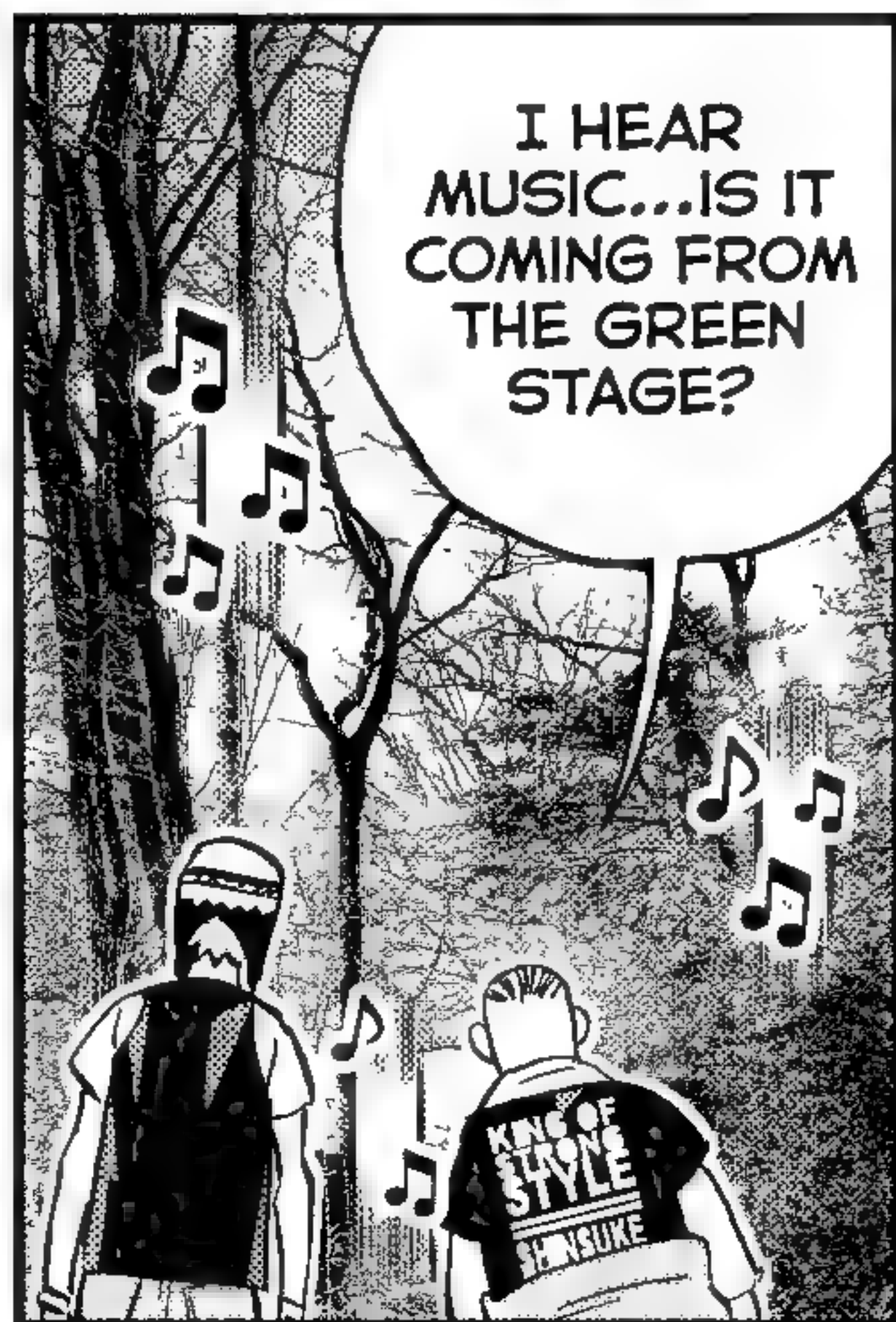
...

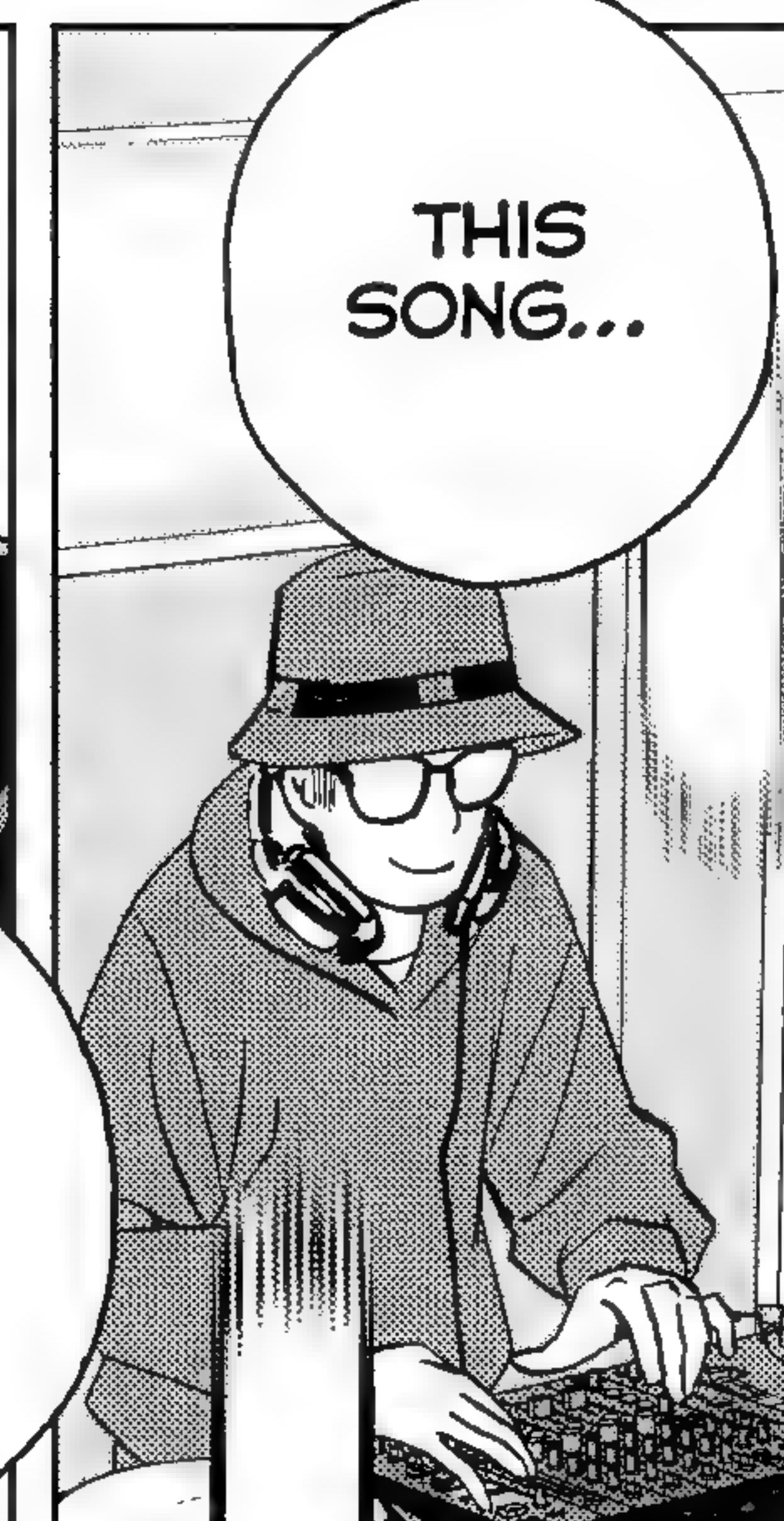
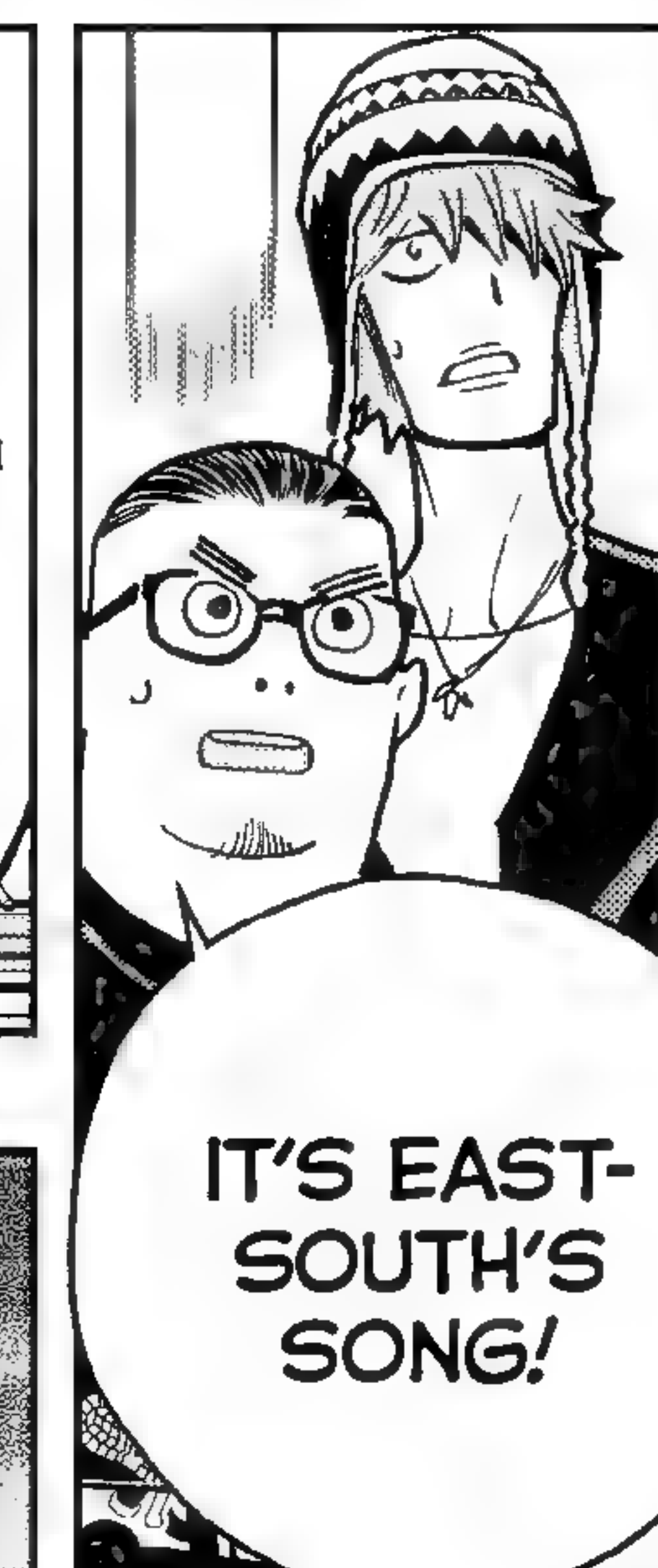
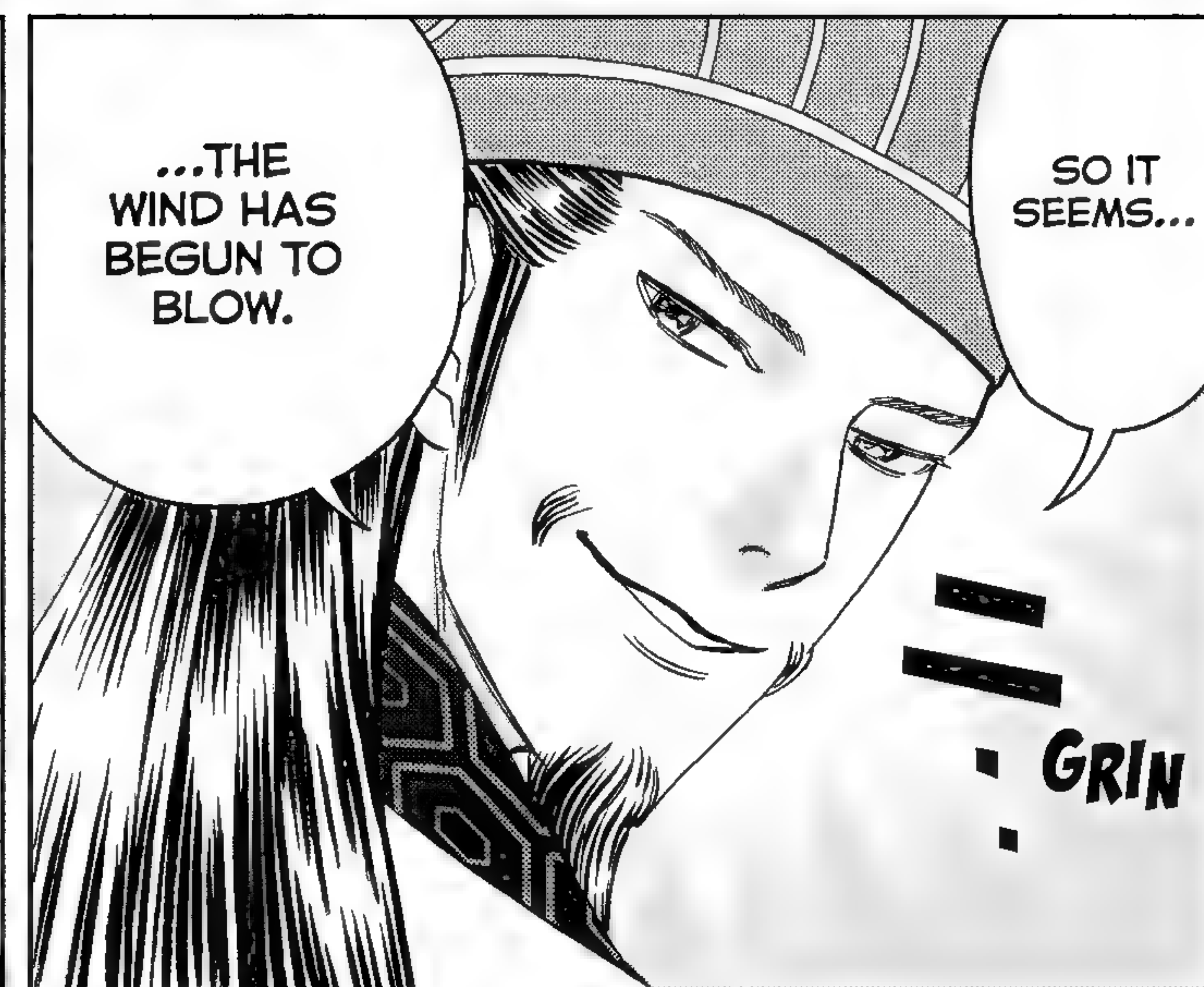


JUST
KEEP SAVING
MONEY UNTIL
*THE TIME'S
RIGHT!*

IT'S NOT
GONNA
GO ON
FOREVER,
ANYWAYS!

TAKE THE
MONEY AND
THINK OF
THIS AS
TRAINING!



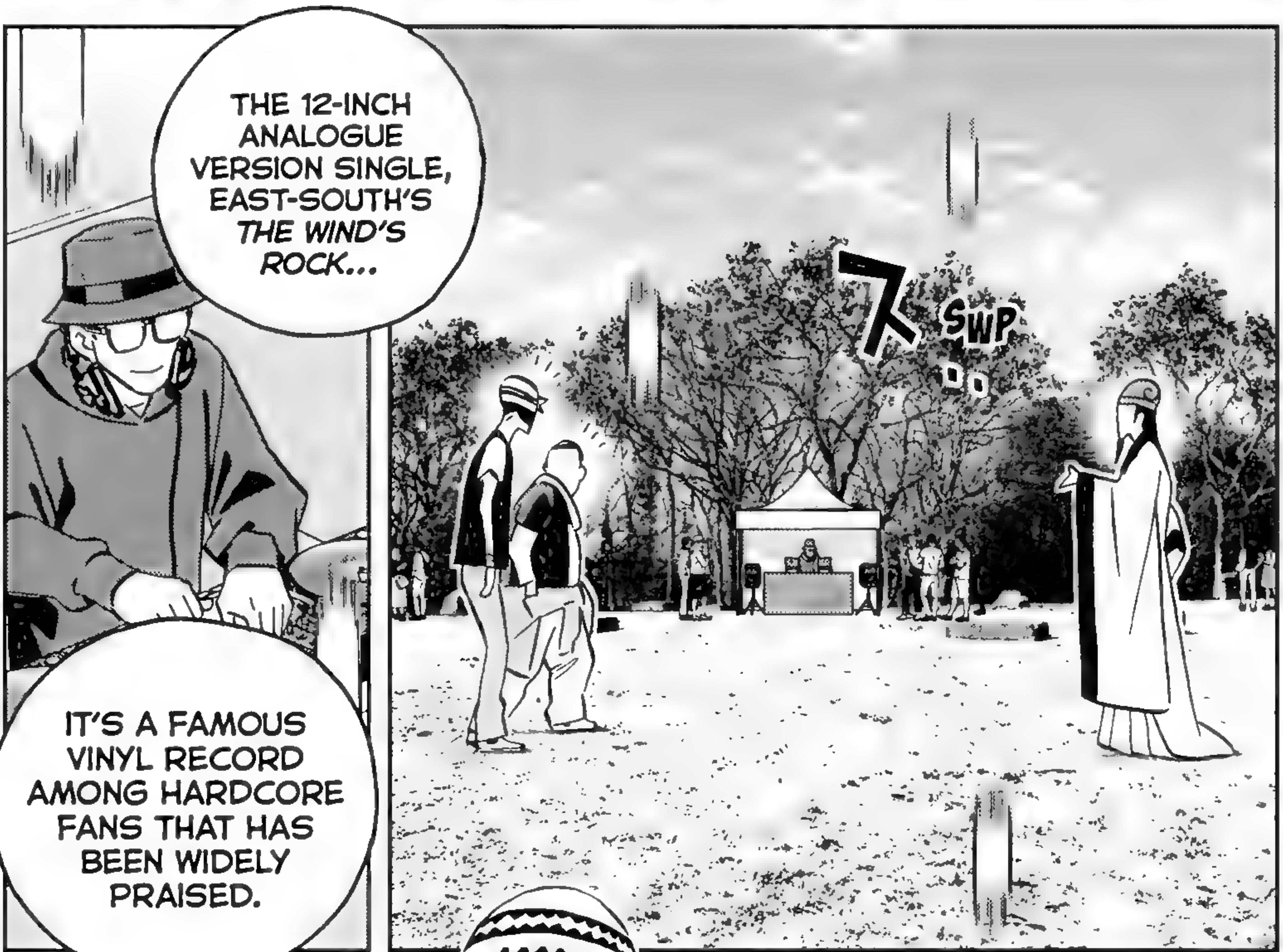


1971
Boy
Knows
Nothing!

HUH?

IF I
REMEMBER
RIGHT...

...THOSE
TWO'RE...



THE 12-INCH
ANALOGUE
VERSION SINGLE,
EAST-SOUTH'S
THE WIND'S
ROCK...

IT'S A FAMOUS
VINYL RECORD
AMONG HARDCORE
FANS THAT HAS
BEEN WIDELY
PRAISED.

...IT IS AN
HONOR TO
MAKE YOUR
ACQUAINTANCE.

...AND SIR
HIGASHI-
YAMA...

EAST-
SOUTH'S SIR
NANBO...



MY
COURTESY
NAME IS
KONGMING.

MY
APOLOGIES
FOR THE LATE
INTRODUCTION.
MY FAMILY NAME
IS ZHUGE, GIVEN
NAME, LIANG.



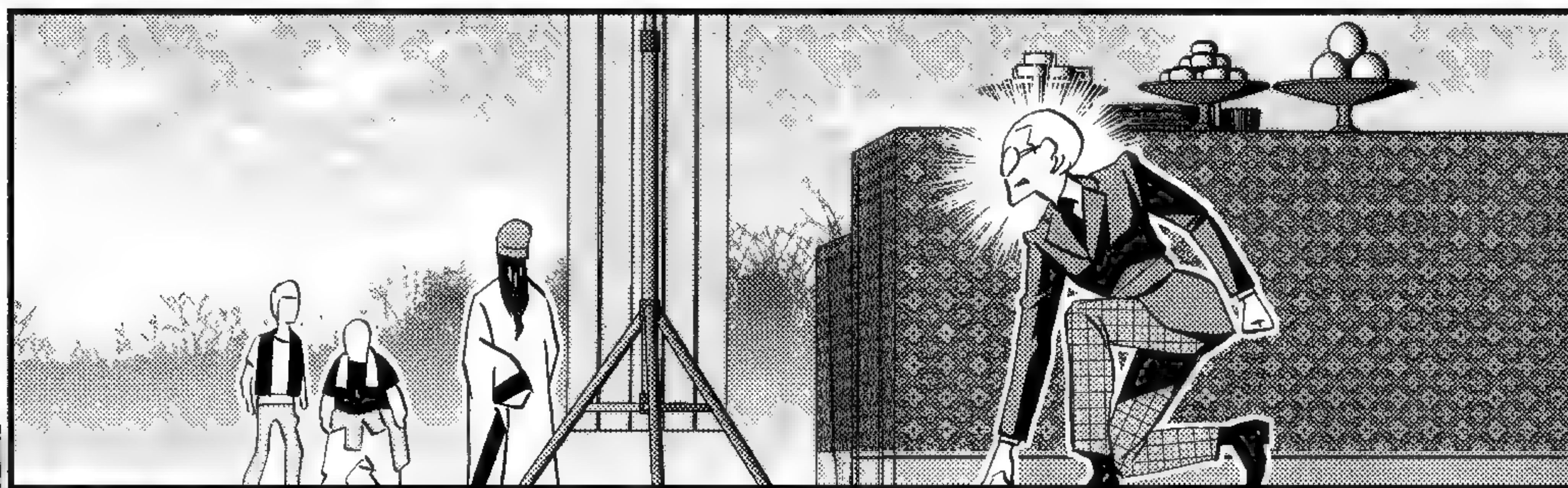
UHH...
HI...

YOU'VE
GOTTA BE A
HARDCORE
FAN YOUR-
SELF TO HAVE
THAT RECORD.
WHO'RE YOU?



HUH...

KONGMING?
THE GUY
FROM THE
THREE
KINGDOMS?

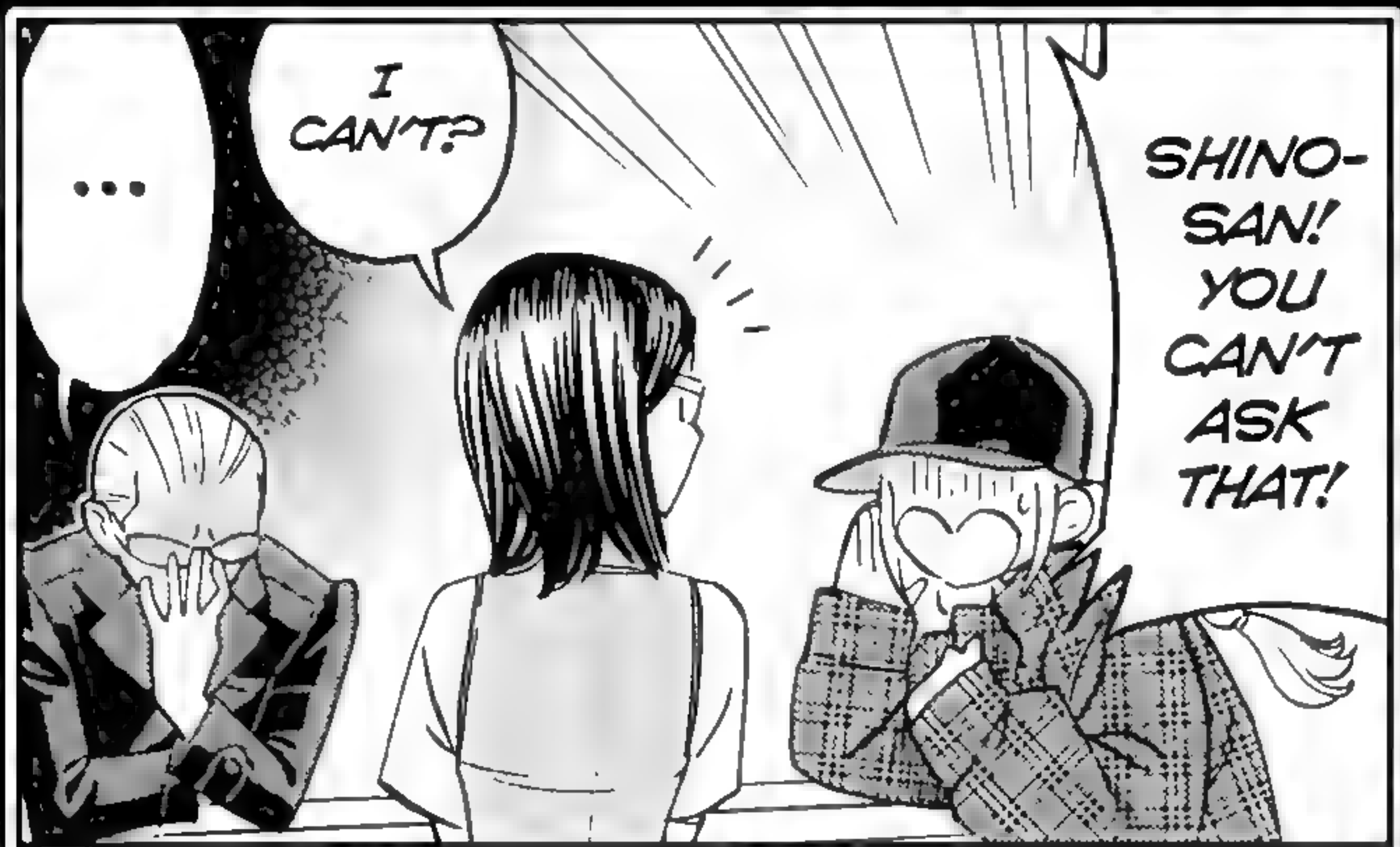


THIS MIGHT
JUST BE...



IT CAN'T BE...
NOT WHEN
KONGMING IS
INVOLVED...

IS THIS A
COINCIDENCE?



...HE MUST
BE REFERRING TO
THE FIRE ATTACK
STRATEGY
EMPLOYED DURING
THE FAMOUS BATTLE
OF RED CLIFFS IN
THREE KINGDOMS
HISTORY!

BUT
CONSIDERING
KONGMING
ALSO
MENTIONED
A PRAYER...

THERE HE
GOES...

CLAP ♪ CLAP ♪
CLAP

CLAP ♪
CLAP ♪

IN THE YEAR 208 IN
CHINA...CAO CAO AND
HIS ARMY OF A MILLION
STRONG CLASHED WITH
LIU BEI AND SUN QUAN'S
JOINT ARMY OF 30,000
AT A LOCATION THAT
WOULD LATER BE NAMED
THE RED CLIFFS BY
THE YANGTZE RIVER!

YES-
SIR!

SHOJI...
CARE TO
EXPLAIN
WHAT THE
BATTLE OF
RED CLIFFS
IS?

THERE ARE MANY
DIFFERENT THEORIES
ABOUT THE EXACT
NUMBERS...BUT AT ANY
RATE, THE JOINT ARMY
THUS EMPLOYED THE
FIRE ATTACK STRATEGY
TO OVERTURN THE
OVERWHELMINGLY
UNBEATABLE ODDS!

AND
YOU'D
BE COR-
RECT!

SLUURP
すー

30K
AGAINST A
MILLION?
THEY'VE
GOT NO
CHANCE.

...AND IF THEY WEREN'T CAREFUL, THE FIRE COULD DAMAGE THEIR OWN SOLDIERS.

CAO CAO ARMY

THE ENEMY WOULDN'T BE AFFECTED MUCH BY THE FIRE...

YANGTZE RIVER

SUN QUAN AND LIU BEI'S JOINT ARMY

THAT'S WHY THEY THOUGHT THEY SHOULD STOP THE FIRES.

THAT'S NO GOOD...

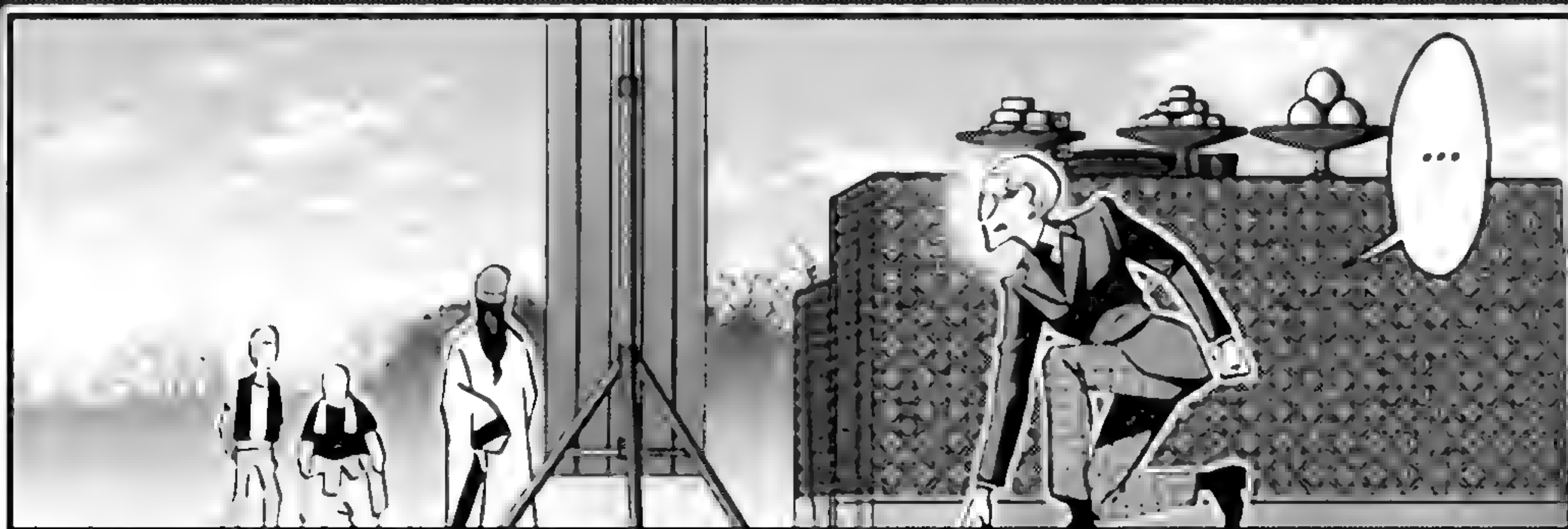
HOWEVER, AS THEIR TERRIBLE LUCK WOULD HAVE IT, THE WIND CAME BLOWING IN FROM THE NORTHWEST, OPPOSITE OF THE DIRECTION THEY WANTED.

BUT THEN, A PRAYER WAS ANSWERED! A WIND KICKED UP FROM THE SOUTHEAST...

...AND THE ONE WHO PRAYED FOR THIS MIRACLE, WHICH LED TO THE ALLIED TROOPS' VICTORY, WAS NONE OTHER THAN ZHUGE KONGMING HIMSELF!



WE LEARNED ABOUT 借箭 (BORROWING ARROWS WITH STRAW SHIPS) IN EARLIER VOLUMES. BUT HERE, THEY ALSO INCLUDED 苦肉計 (INFLECTING INJURY ON ONESELF TO WIN THE ENEMY'S TRUST) AND 连环计 (CHAIN STRATAGEMS), WHICH ARE BOTH PART OF THE 36 STRATAGEMS.



RUMORS?

SEEING AS
YOU'RE BOTH
HERE, THOSE
RUMORS
MUST'VE BEEN
TRUE AFTER
ALL.

...THEY
HAVE THREADS
SET UP FOR
ALL OF THE
PARTICIPATING
ARTISTS.

SUMMER
SONIA HAS
ITS OWN
OFFICIAL
DISCUSSION
BOARD, YOU
SEE...

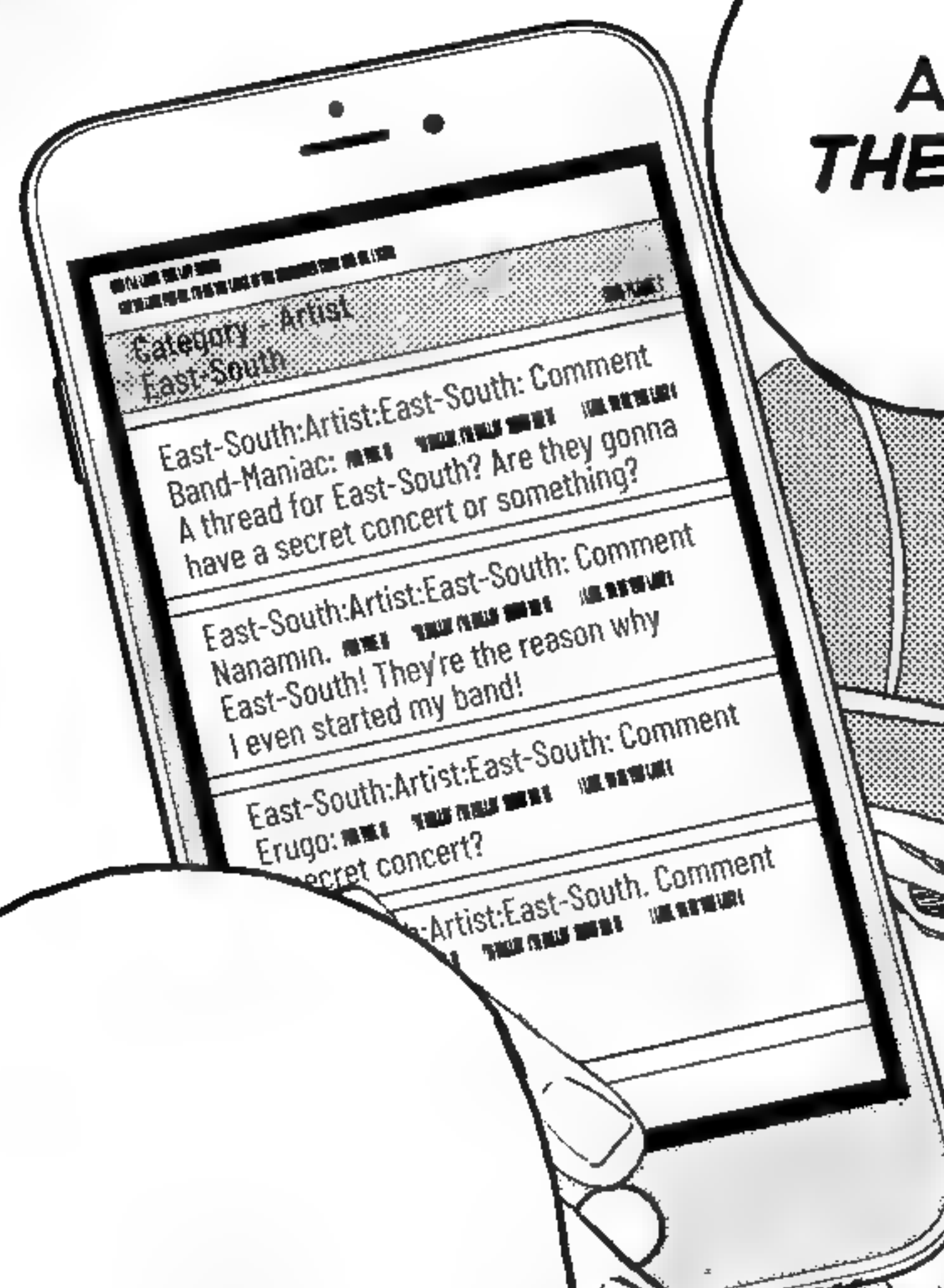
WHAT?!

AND
THERE...

THE
SHARP FANS
THEORIZE...

THAT PERHAPS
EAST-SOUTH
MAY APPEAR
IN A SURPRISE
CONCERT...

...I SAW
THE NAME
EAST-SOUTH.







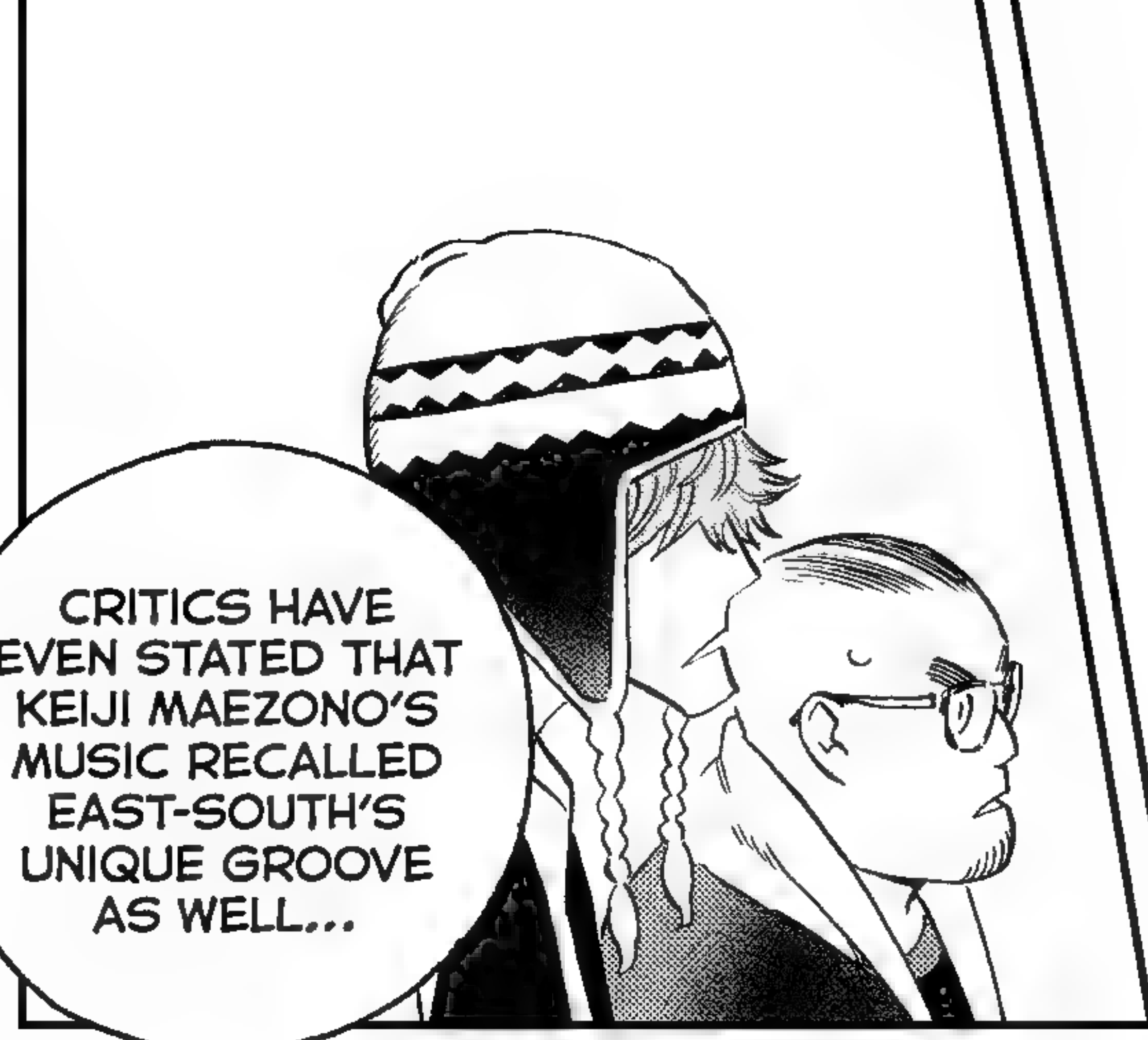
...ARE ACTUALLY
KEIJI MAEZONO'S
GHOSTWRITERS...

...THAT THE
MEMBERS OF
EAST-SOUTH...




BUT AT ONE POINT,
THE QUALITY OF HIS
WORKS SUDDENLY
IMPROVED, AND HE
WAS WIDELY PRAISED
FOR HIS MUSICAL
TALENTS.

KEIJI MAEZONO
HAS ALWAYS
BEEN QUITE
POPULAR.



CRITICS HAVE
EVEN STATED THAT
KEIJI MAEZONO'S
MUSIC RECALLED
EAST-SOUTH'S
UNIQUE GROOVE
AS WELL...

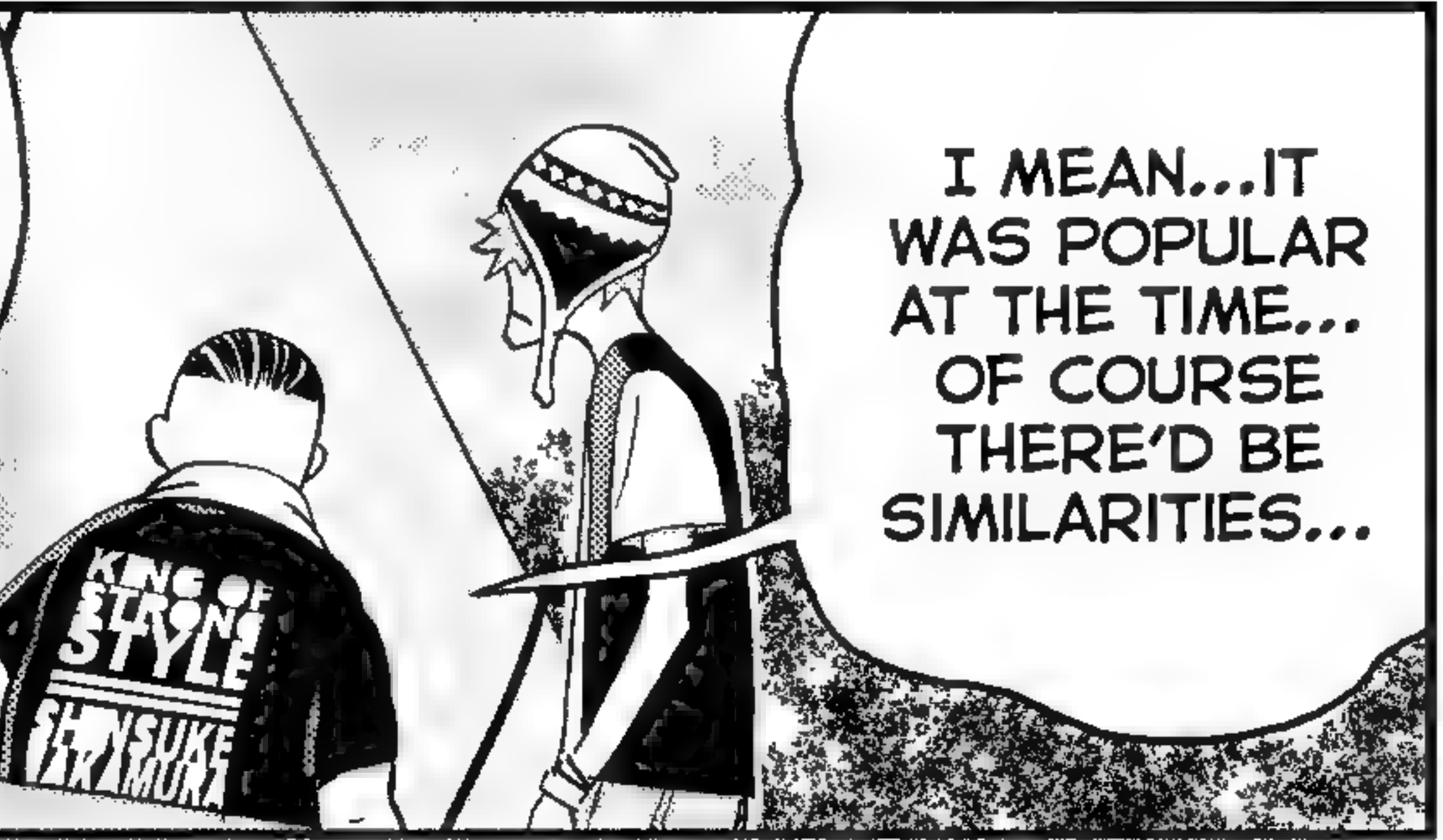


DURING
THAT SAME
TIME, EAST-
SOUTH CEASED
ALL OF THEIR
ACTIVITIES.



BUT IF
NOTHING'S
DONE, THEN
THOSE NASTY
RUMORS WILL
CONTINUE TO
SPREAD...

I SEE...



I MEAN...IT
WAS POPULAR
AT THE TIME...
OF COURSE
THERE'D BE
SIMILARITIES...



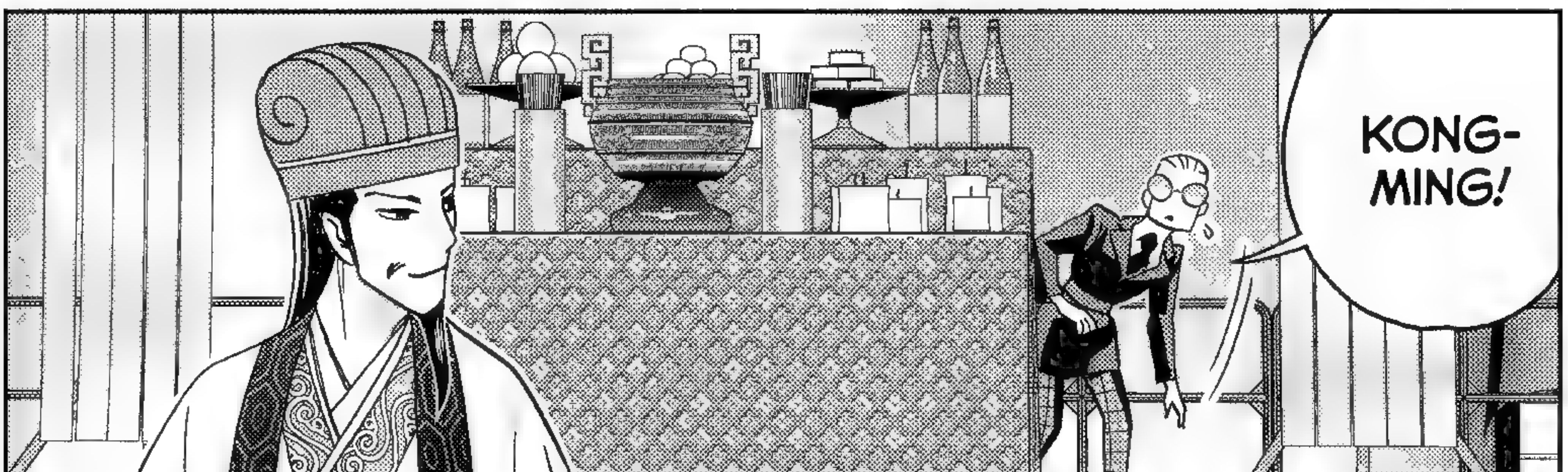
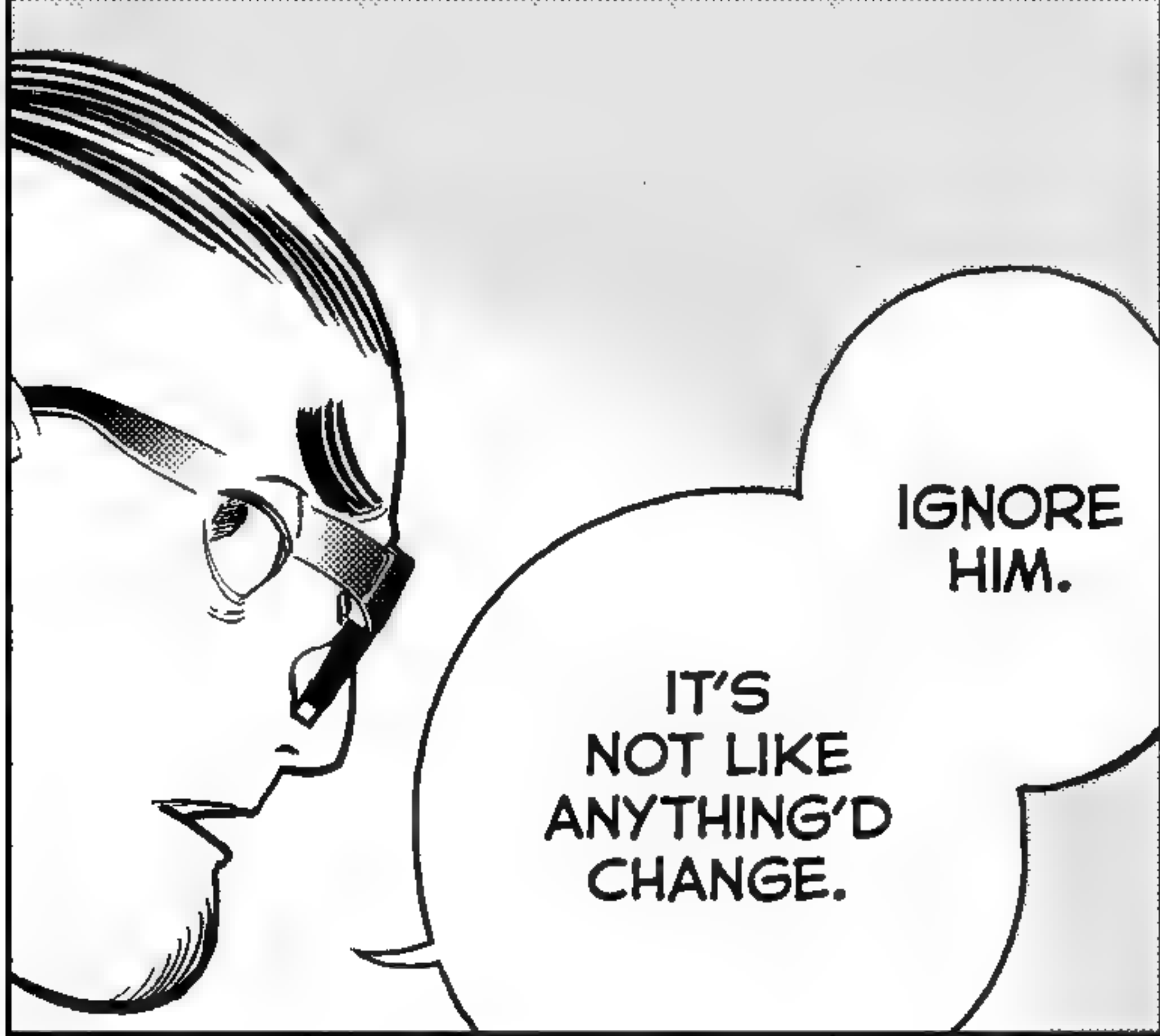
AND
CLARIFY THE
TRUTH?

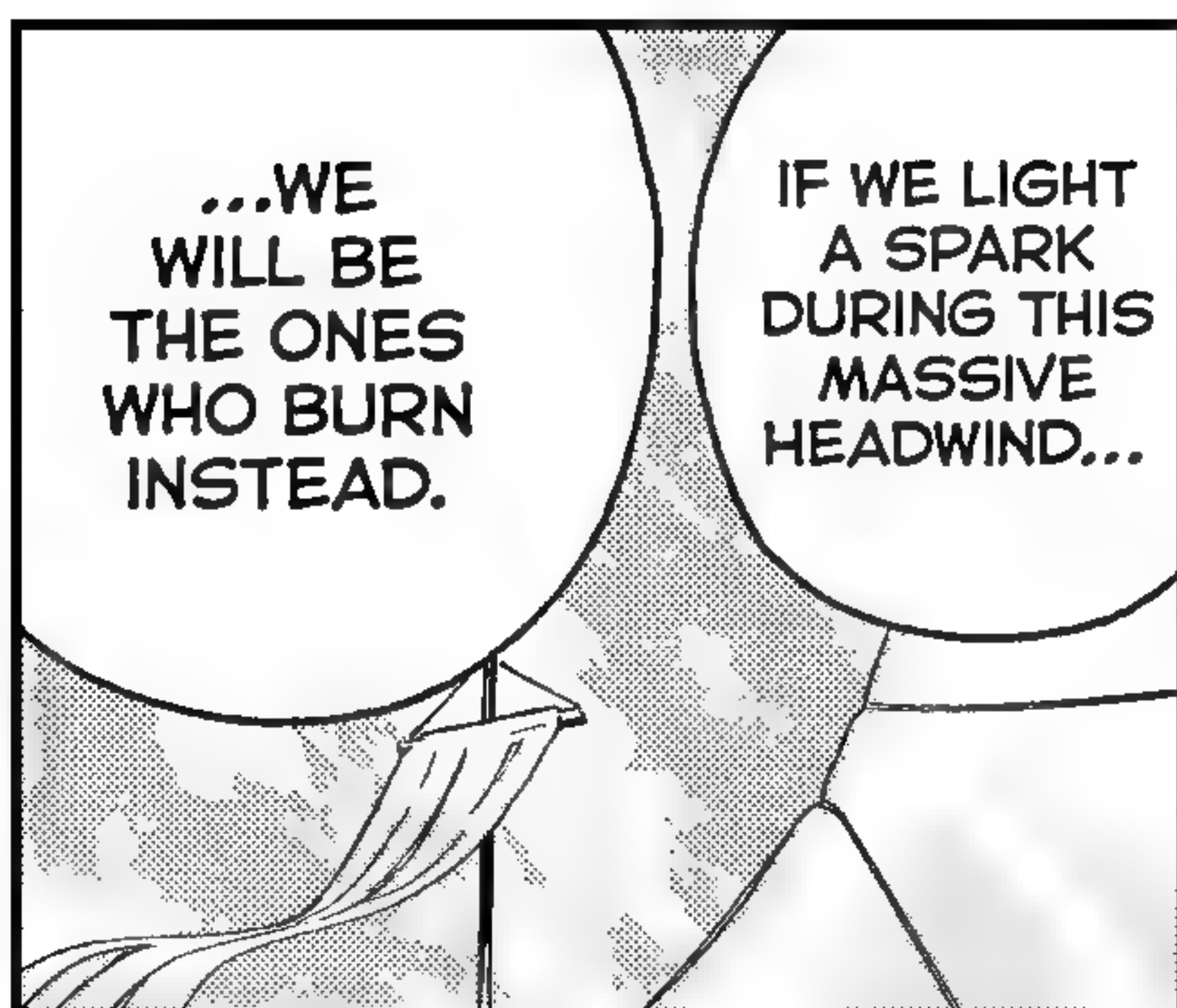
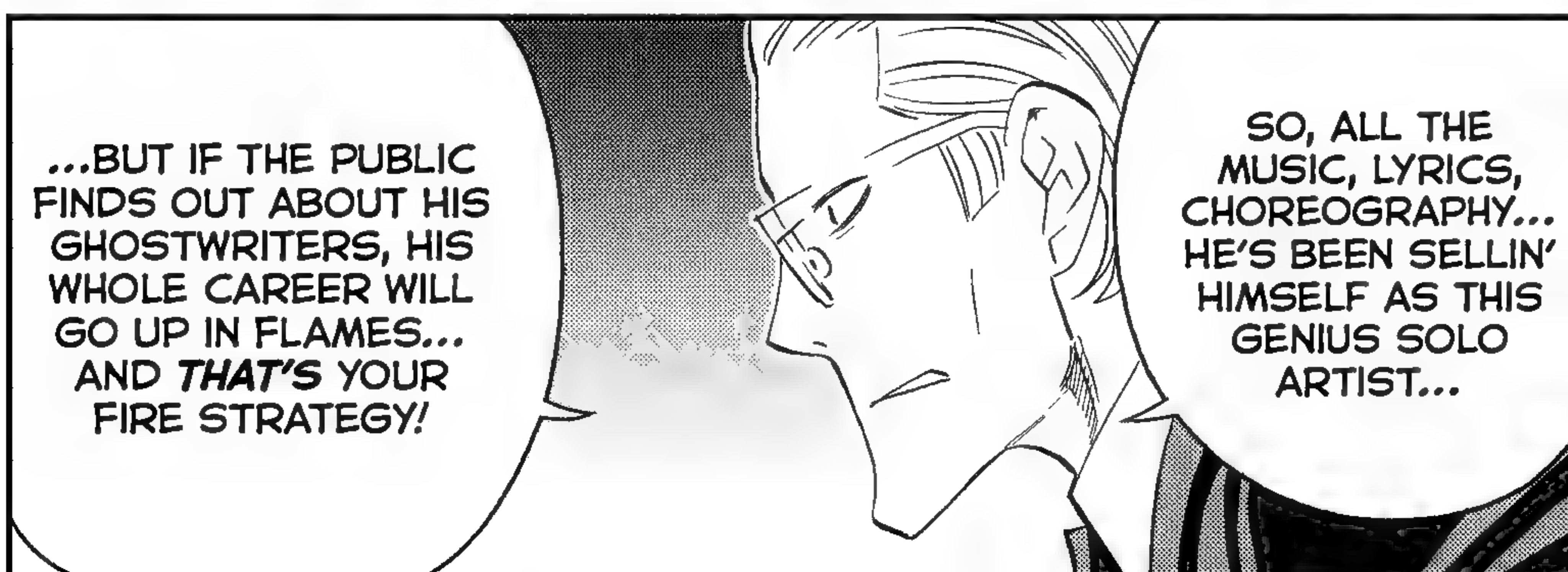
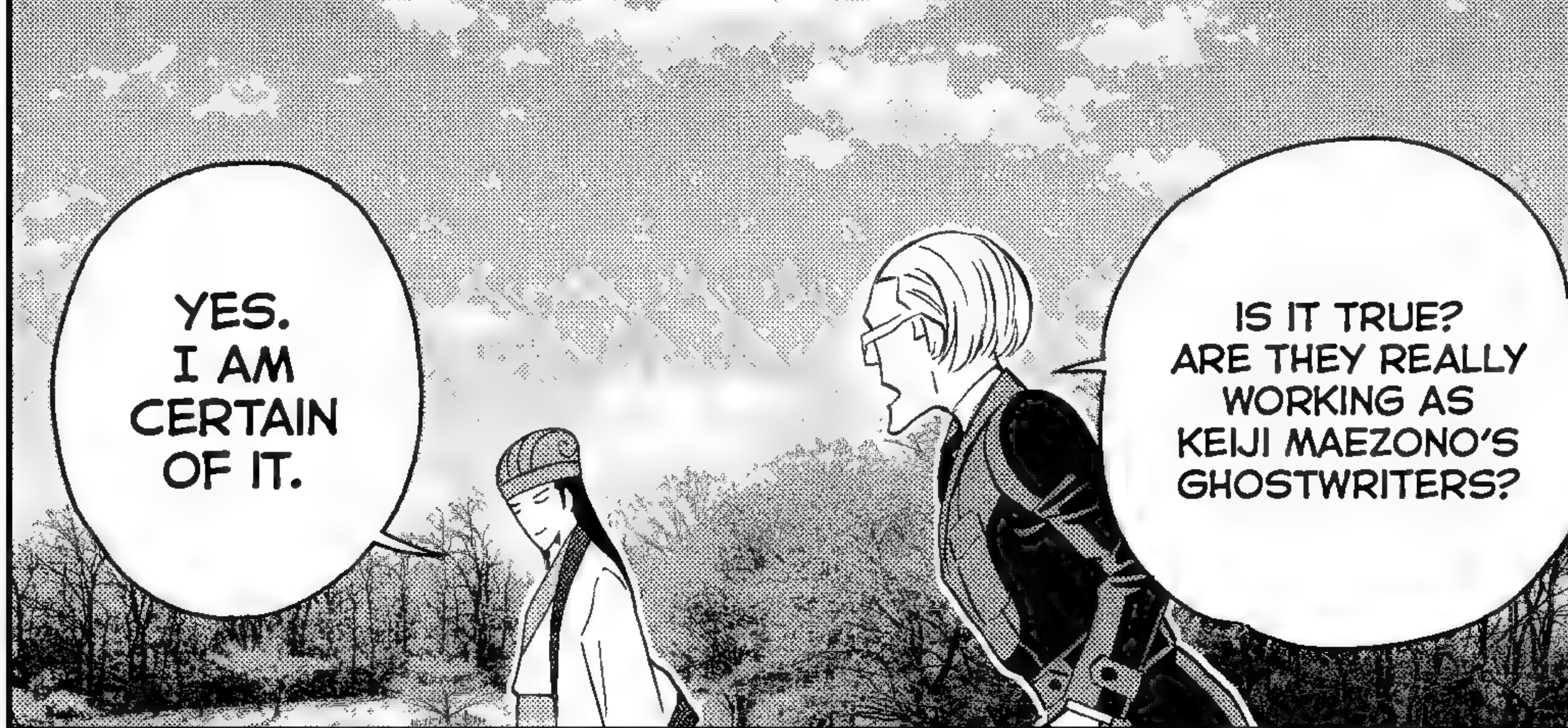
WHY DON'T
THE BOTH OF
YOU ACTUALLY
GO UP ON
STAGE...



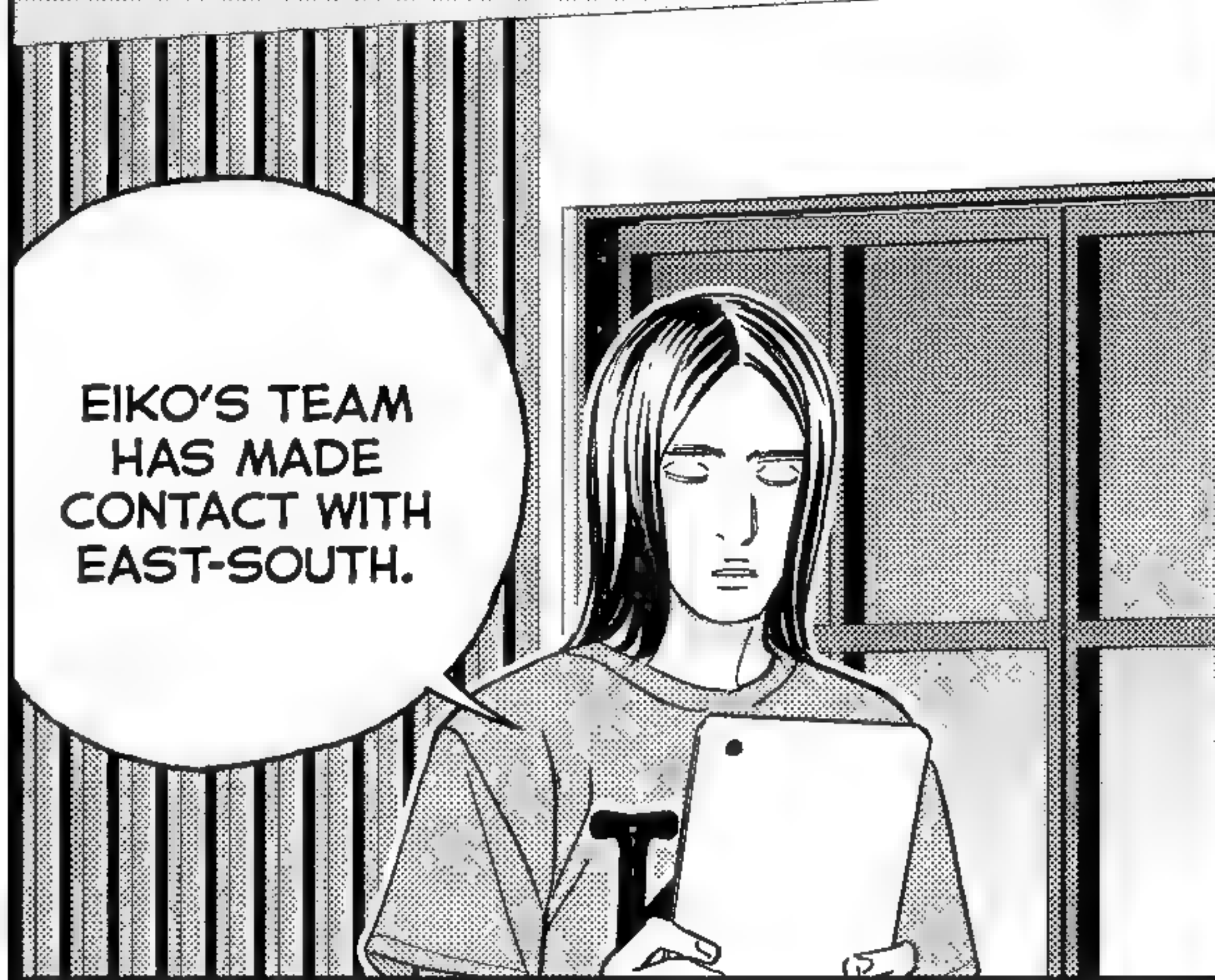
HERE,
DURING
SUMMER
SONIA?

ON
STAGE?





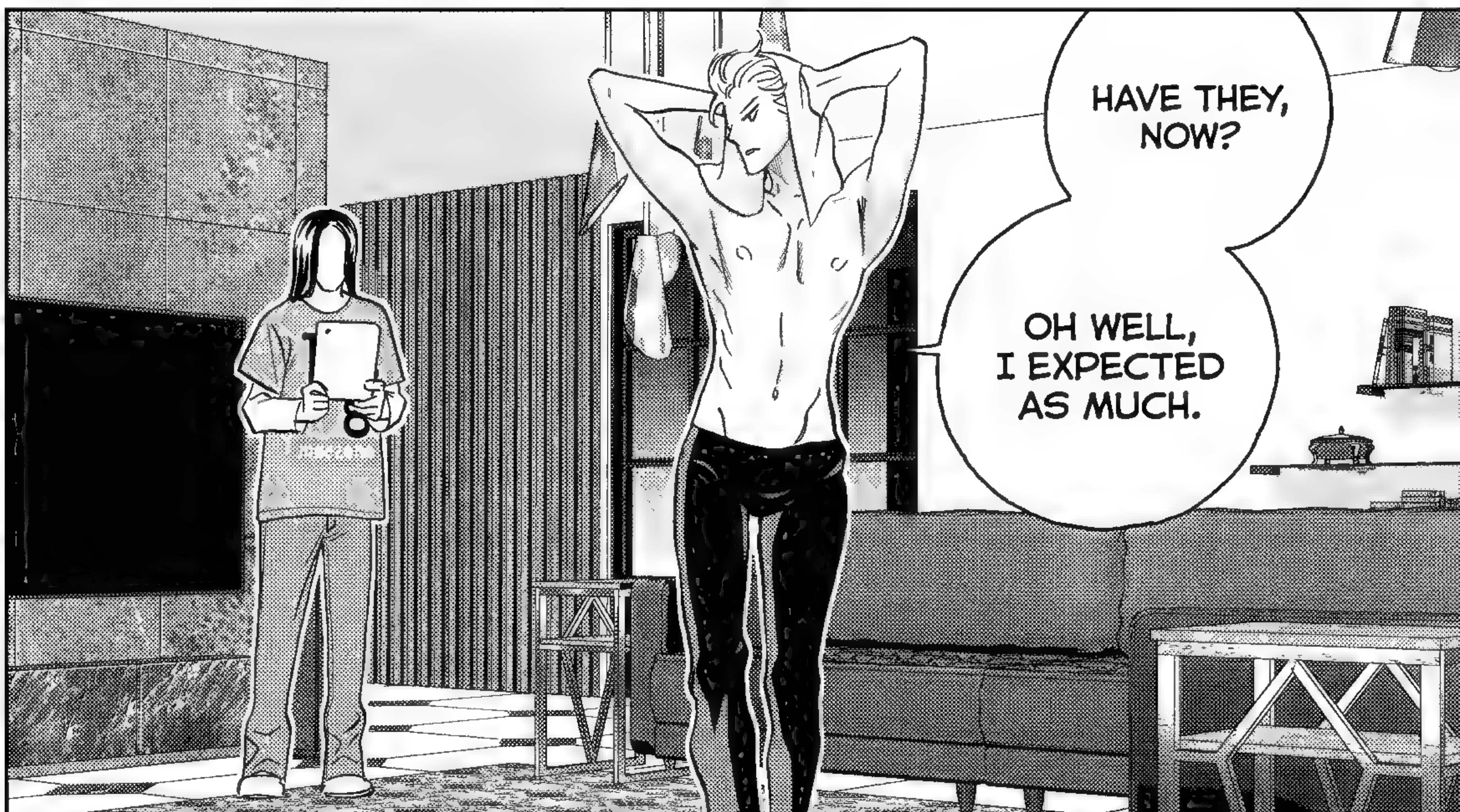




EIKO'S TEAM
HAS MADE
CONTACT WITH
EAST-SOUTH.

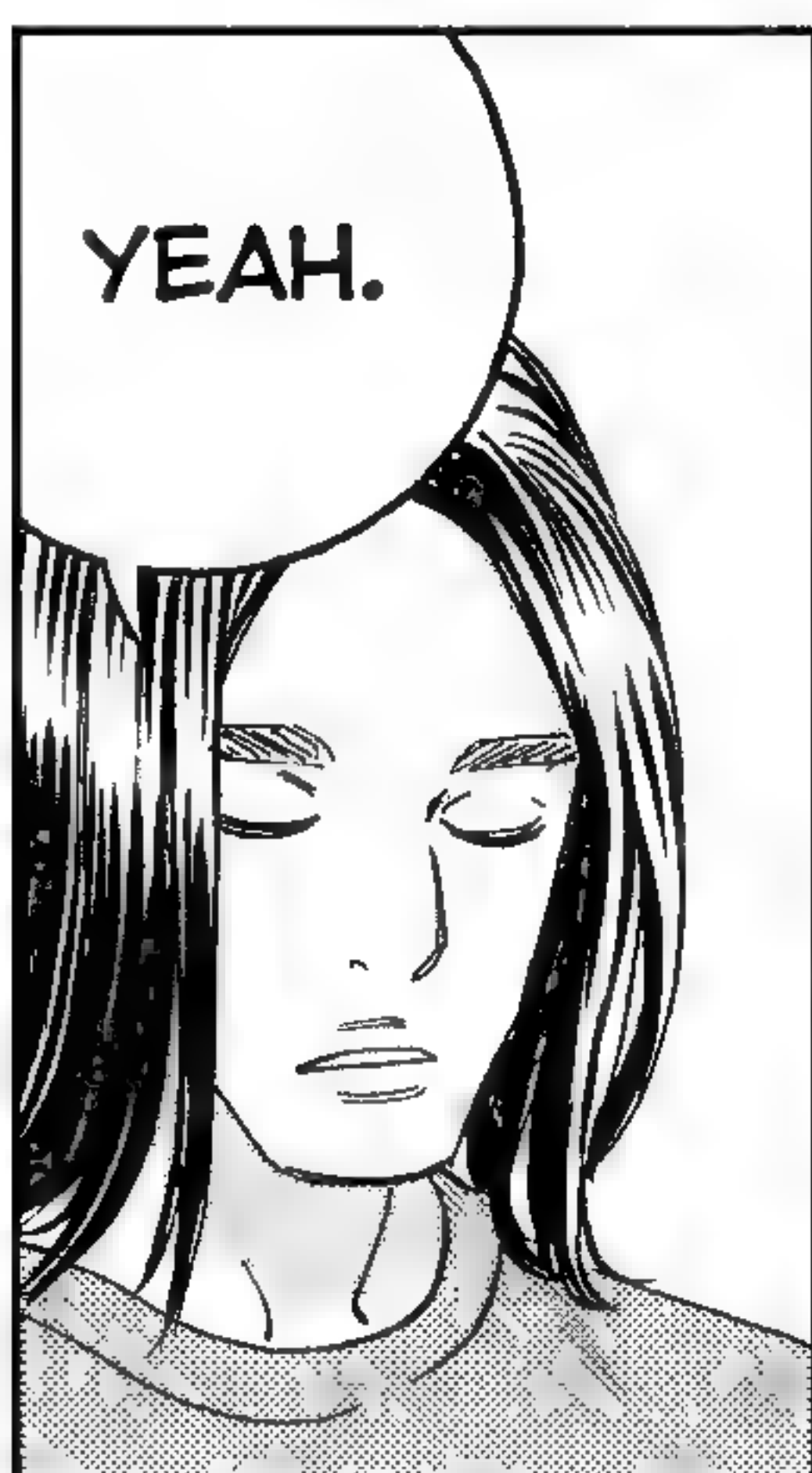


KEIJI-SAN.



HAVE THEY,
NOW?

OH WELL,
I EXPECTED
AS MUCH.

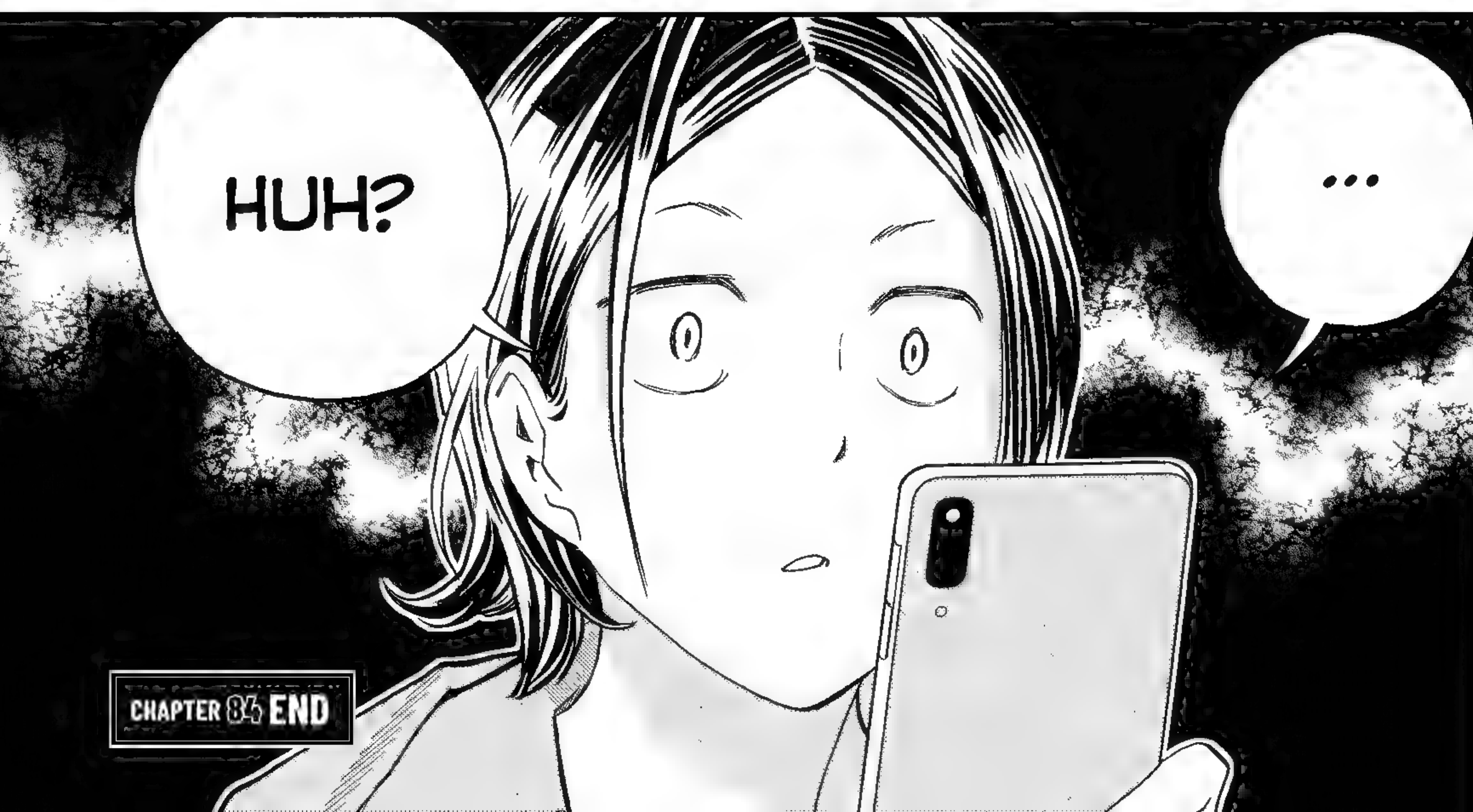
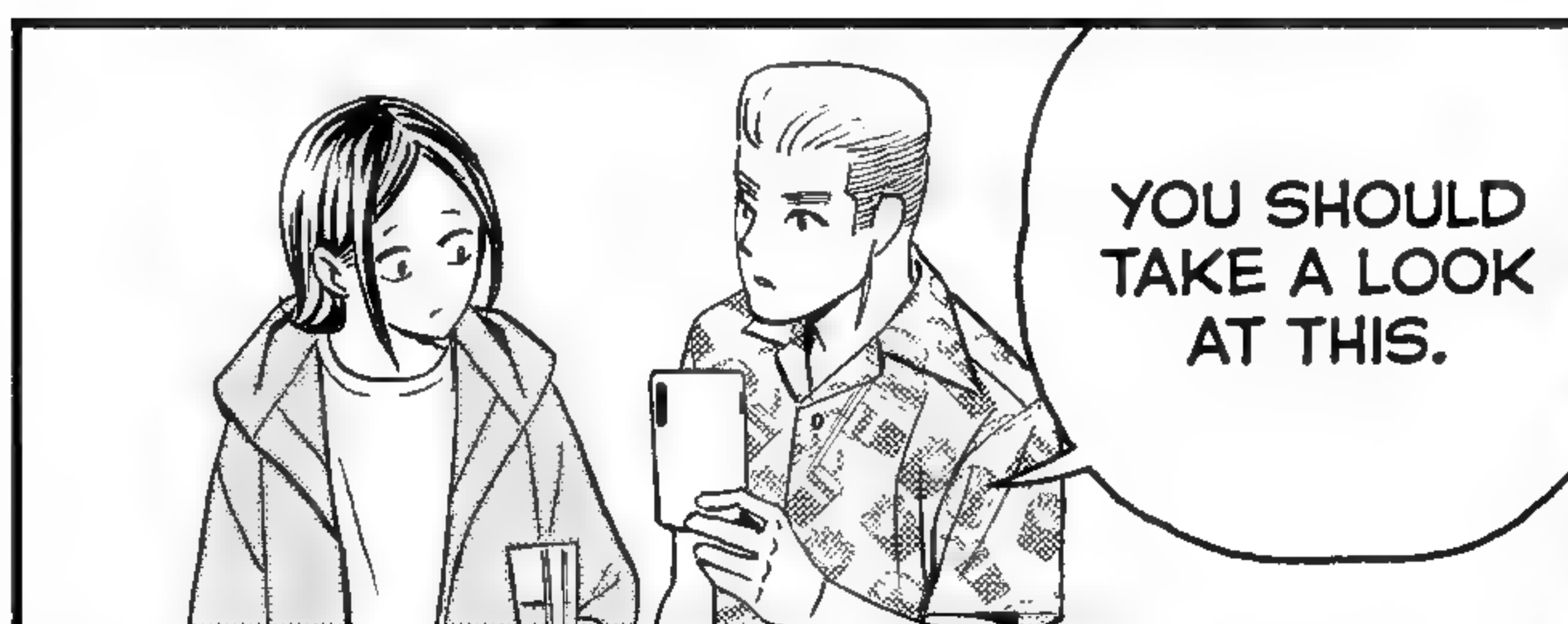
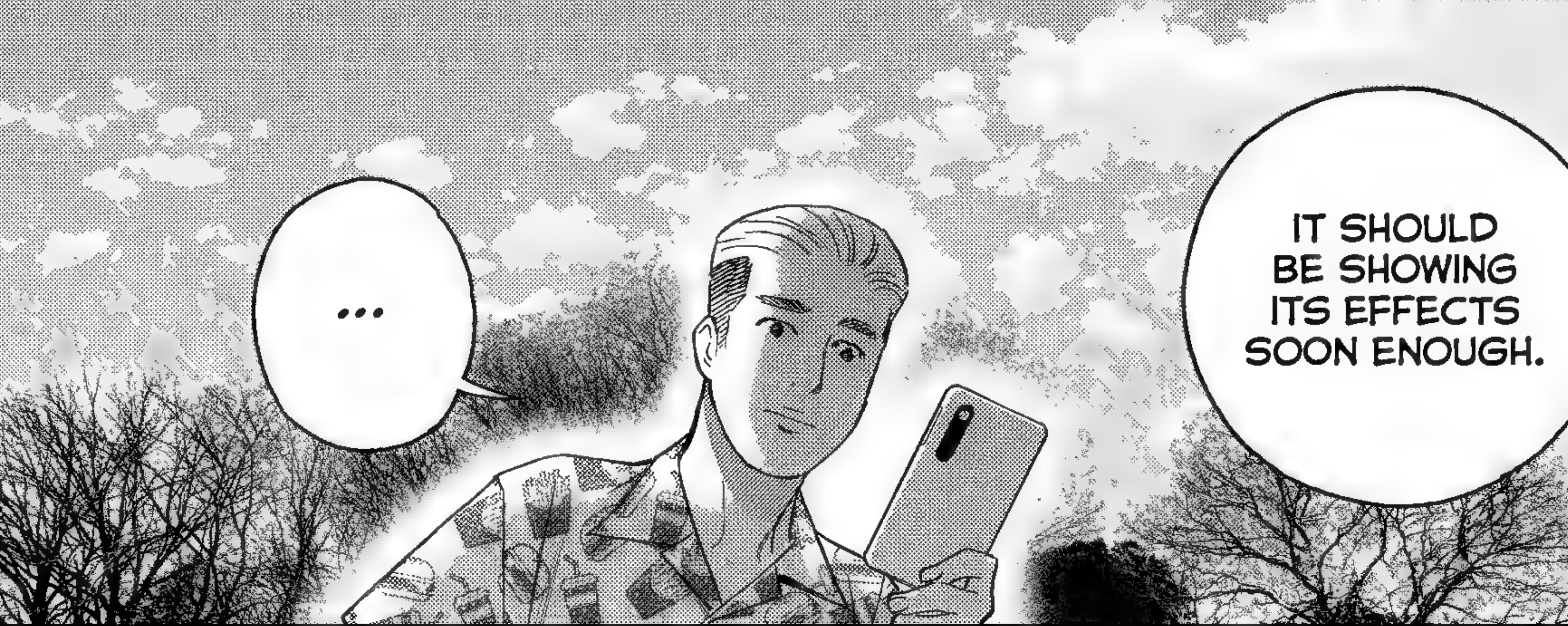


YEAH.

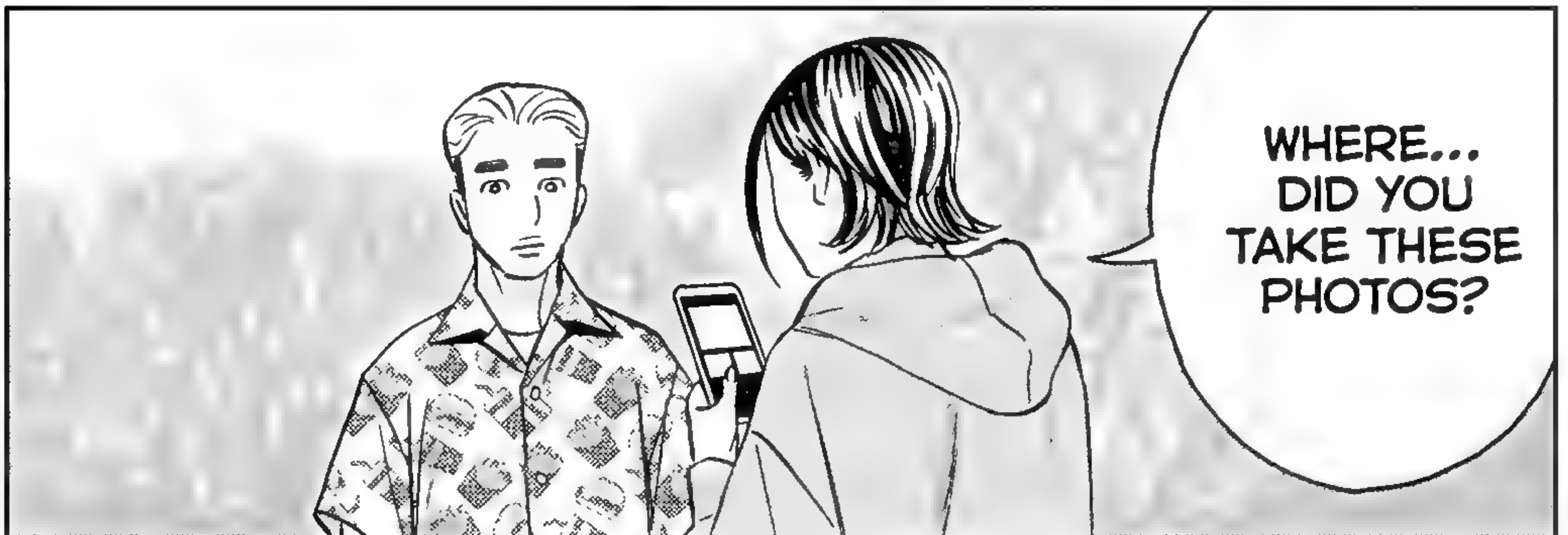
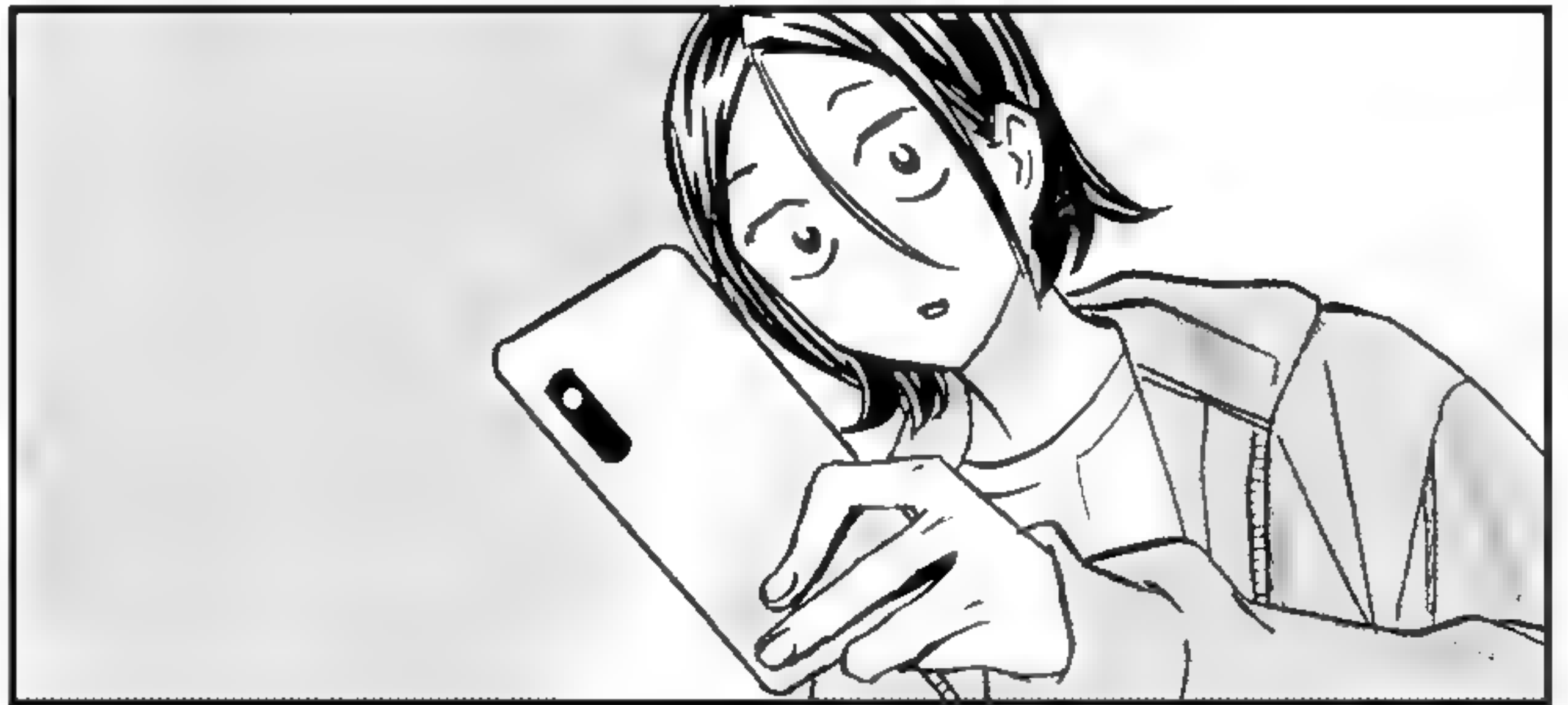
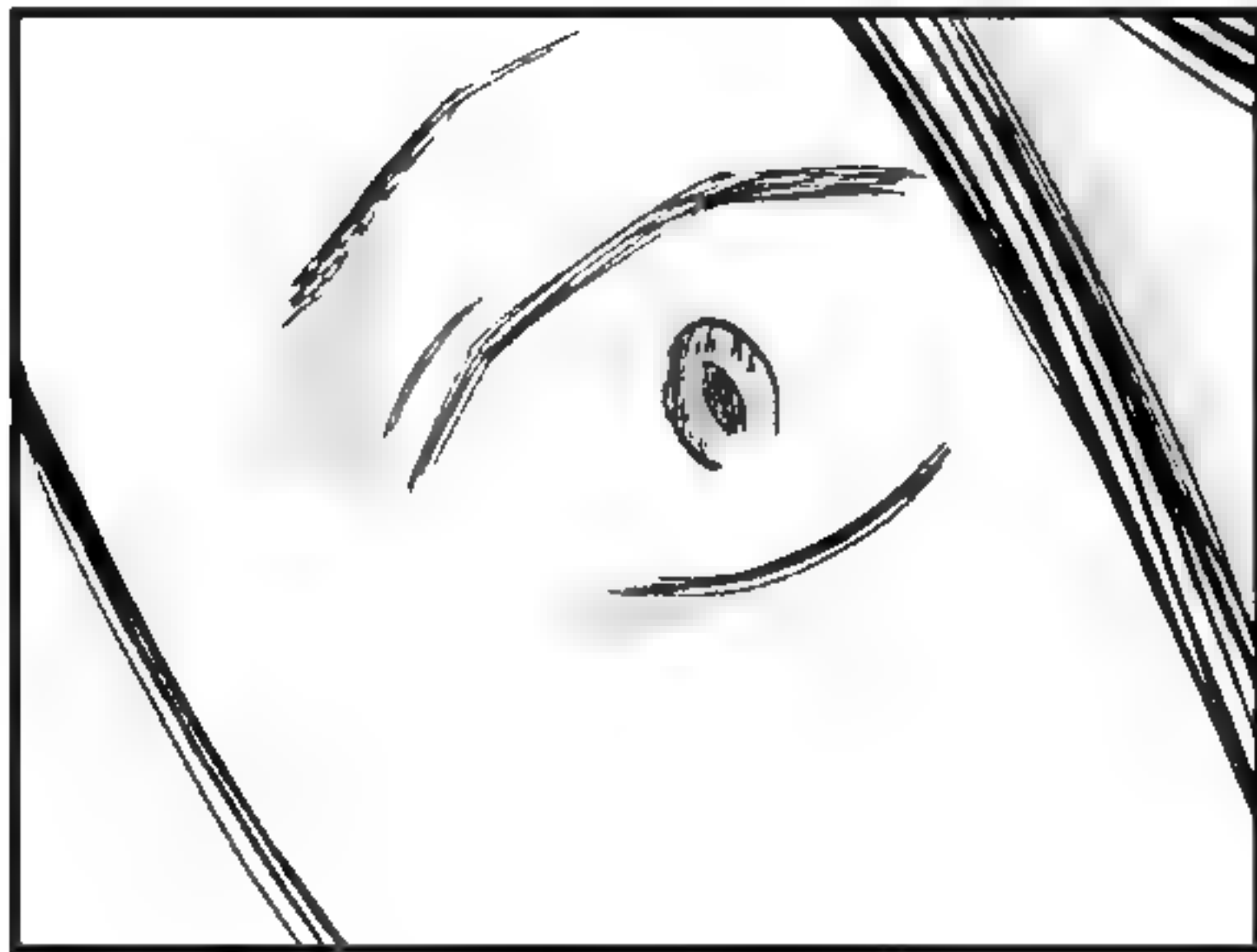


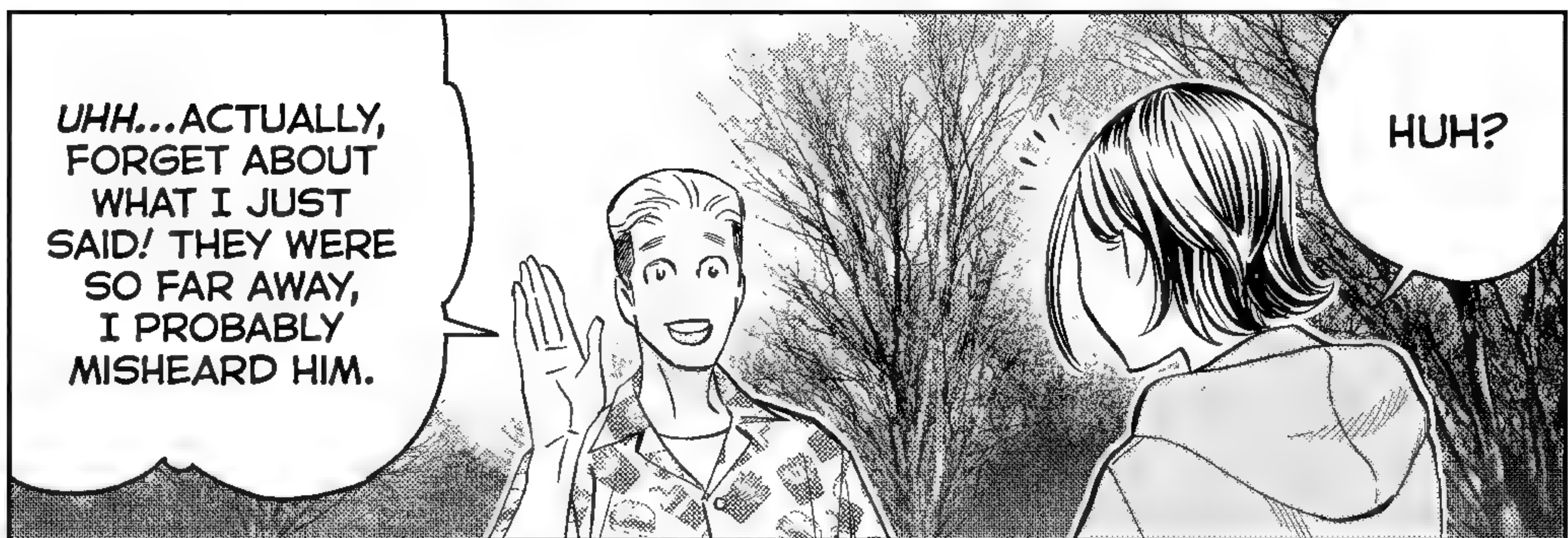
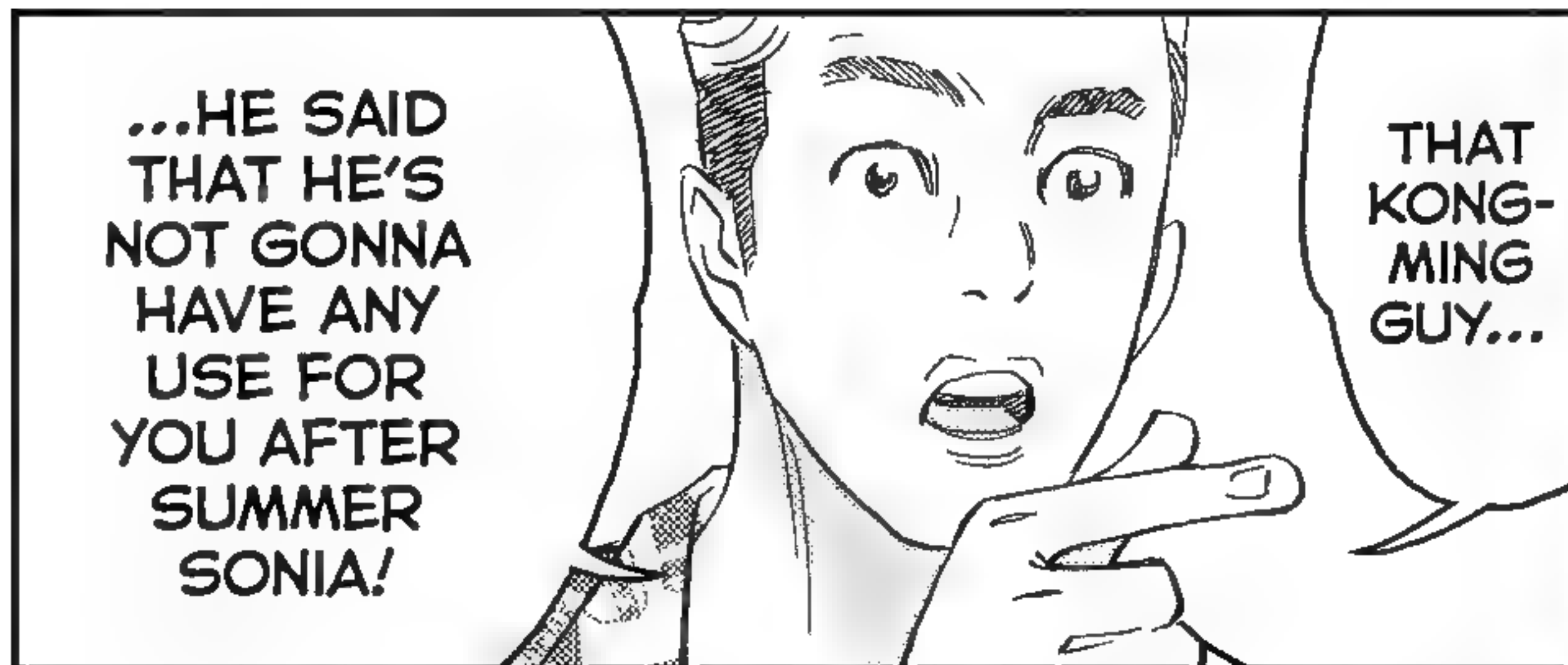
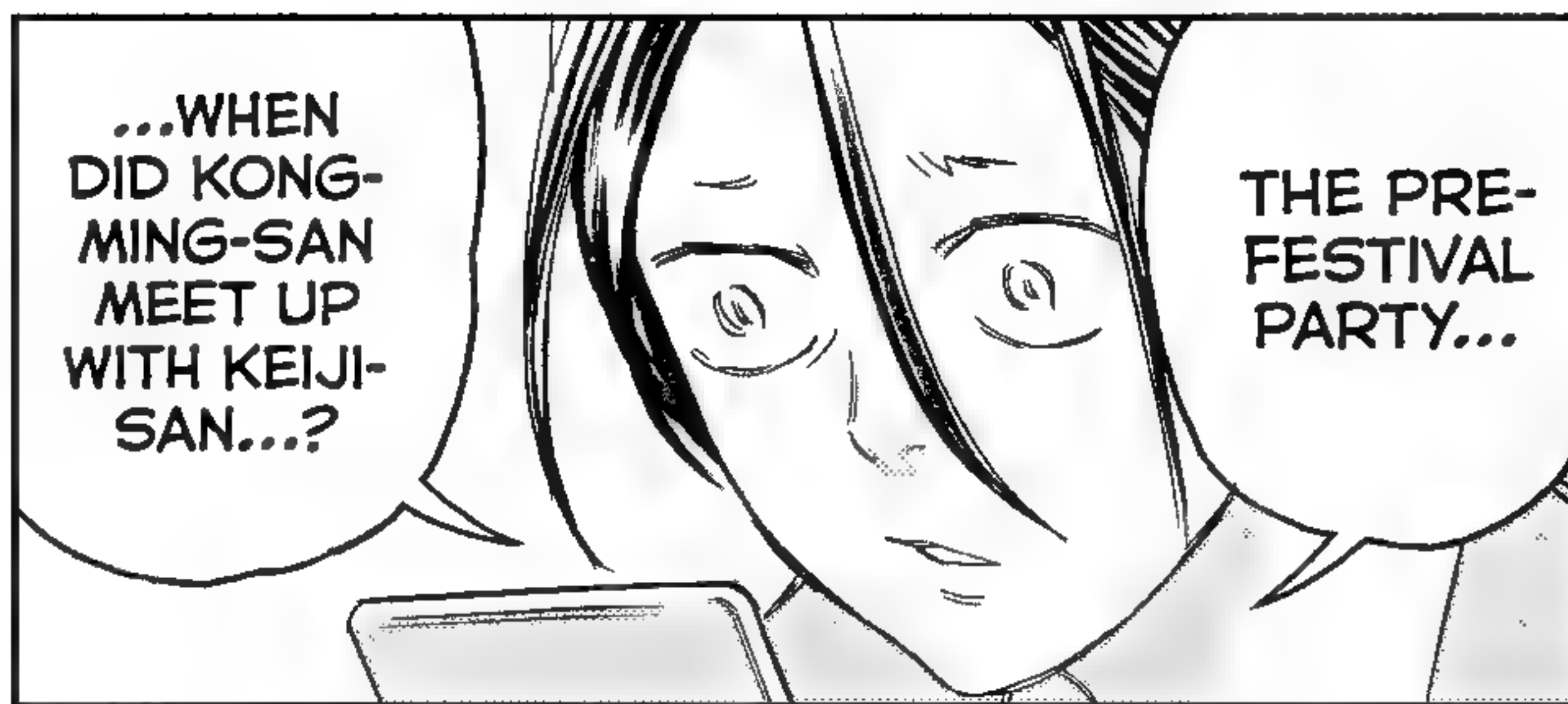
THINK WE
CAN USE
IT?

MORE
IMPORTANTLY,
HOW IS *THAT*
LOOKING?



1971
Boy
Knows
Nothing!









...

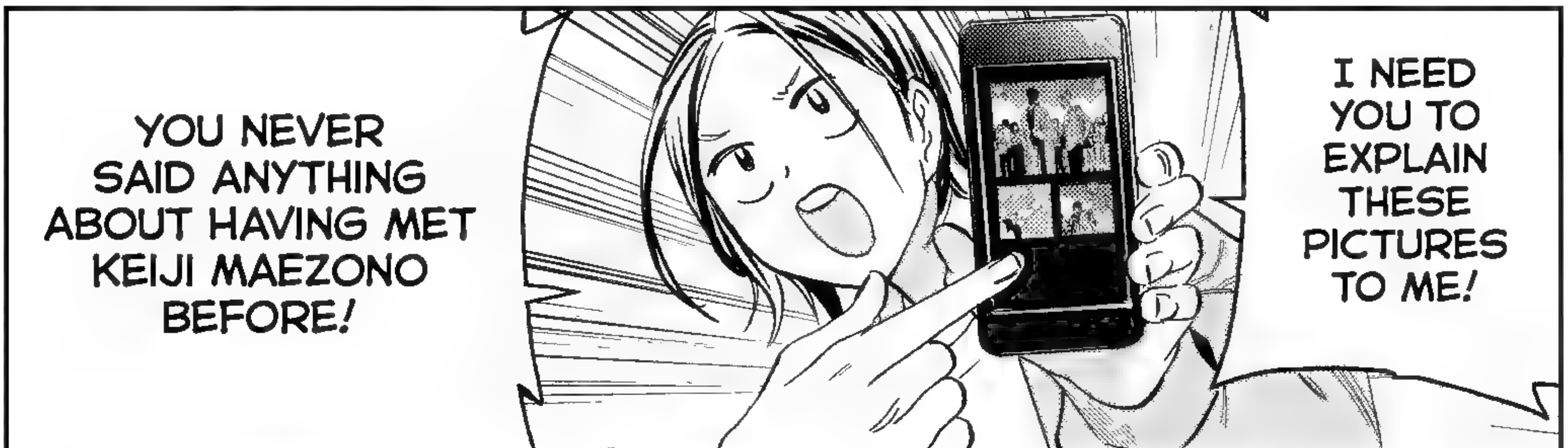
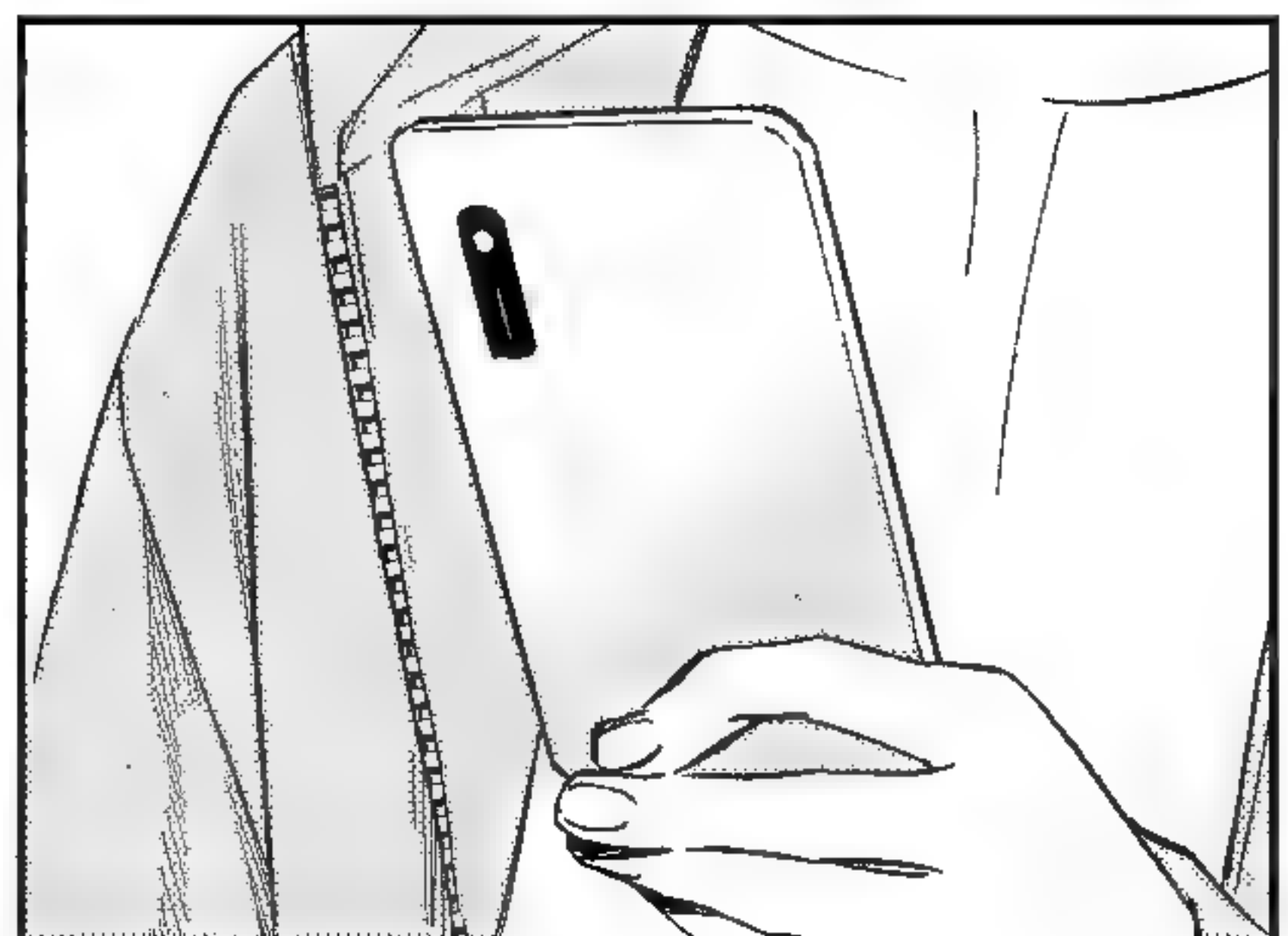


KONGMING-SAN!



IS SOMETHING THE MATTER...

...SIR KABE?



YOU NEVER SAID ANYTHING ABOUT HAVING MET KEIJI MAEZONO BEFORE!

I NEED YOU TO EXPLAIN THESE PICTURES TO ME!



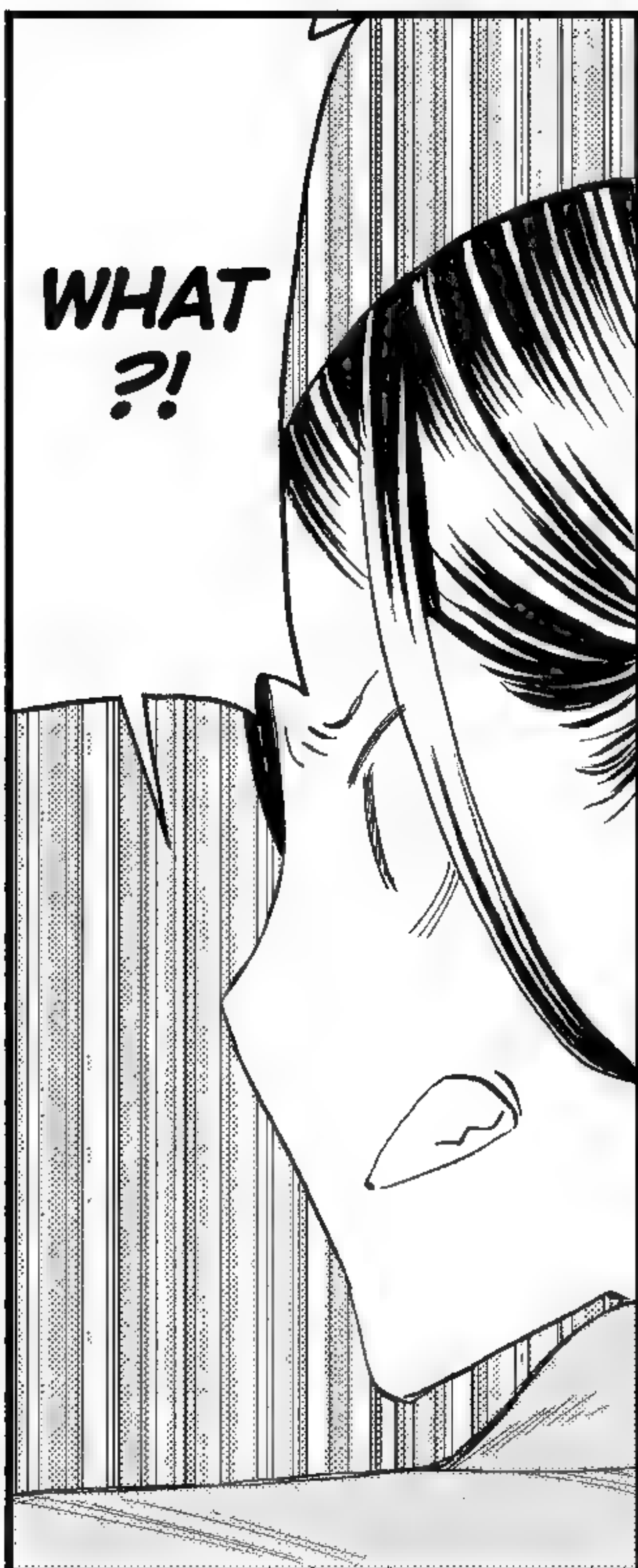
AND WHAT OF YOU, SIR KABE?

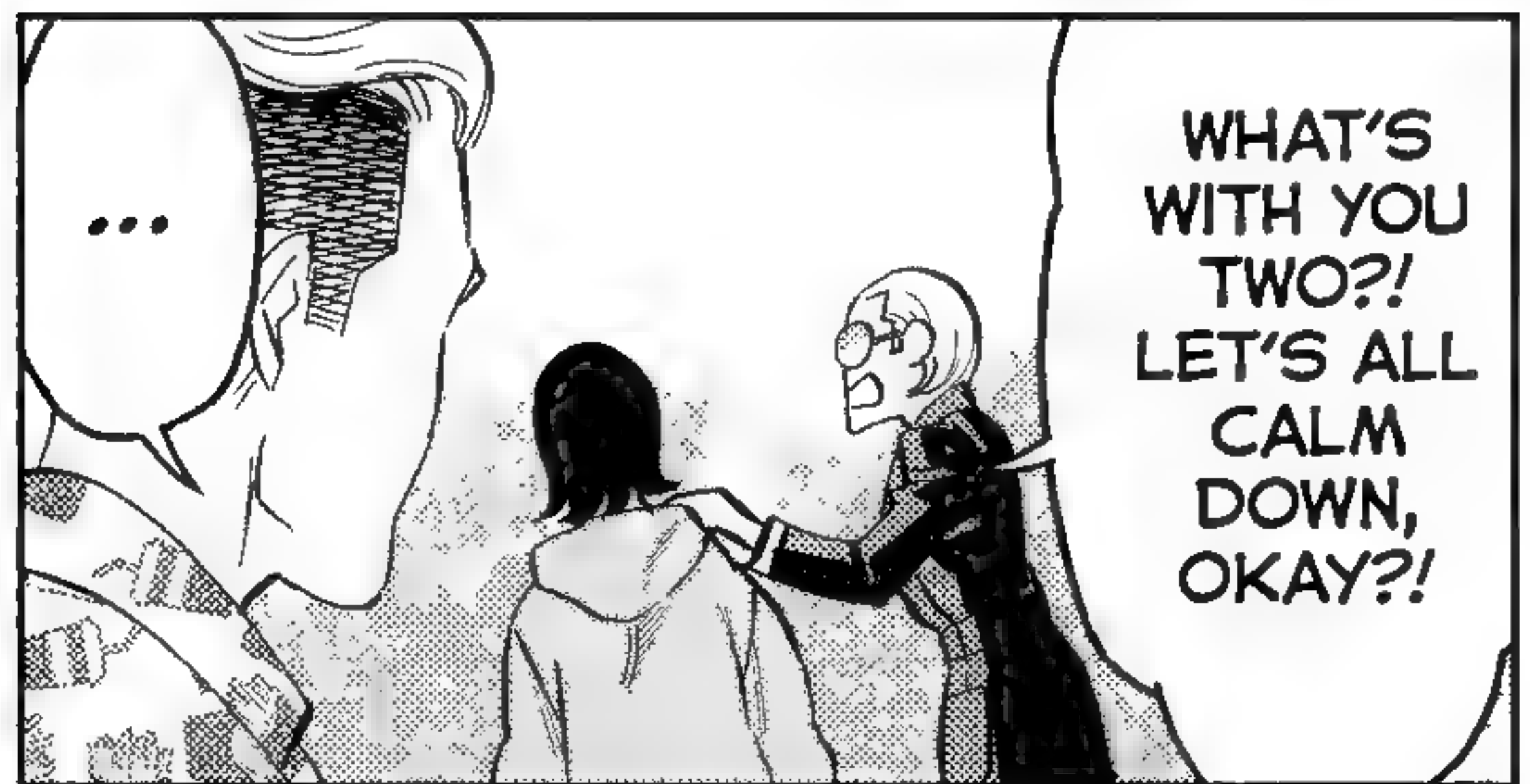
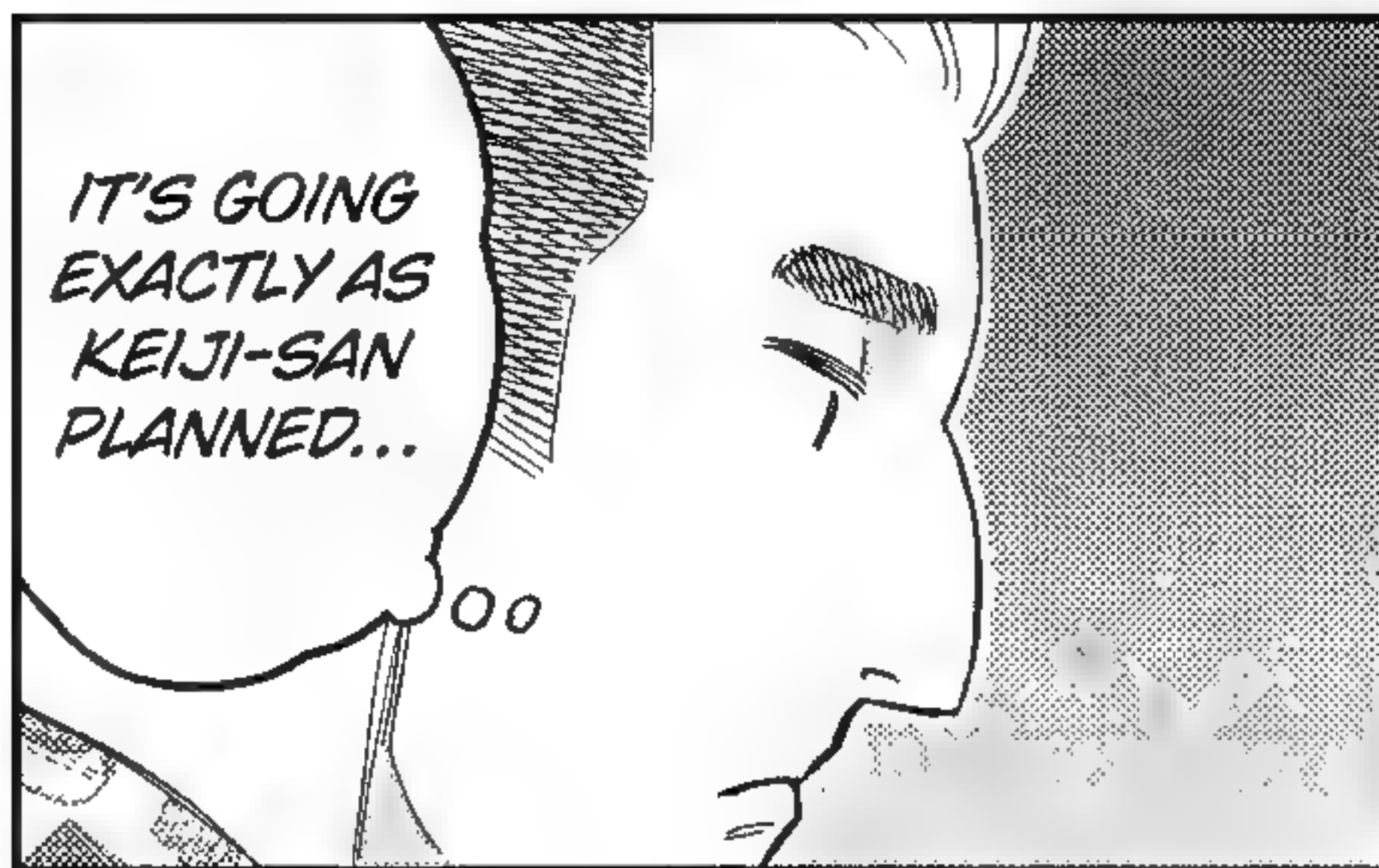


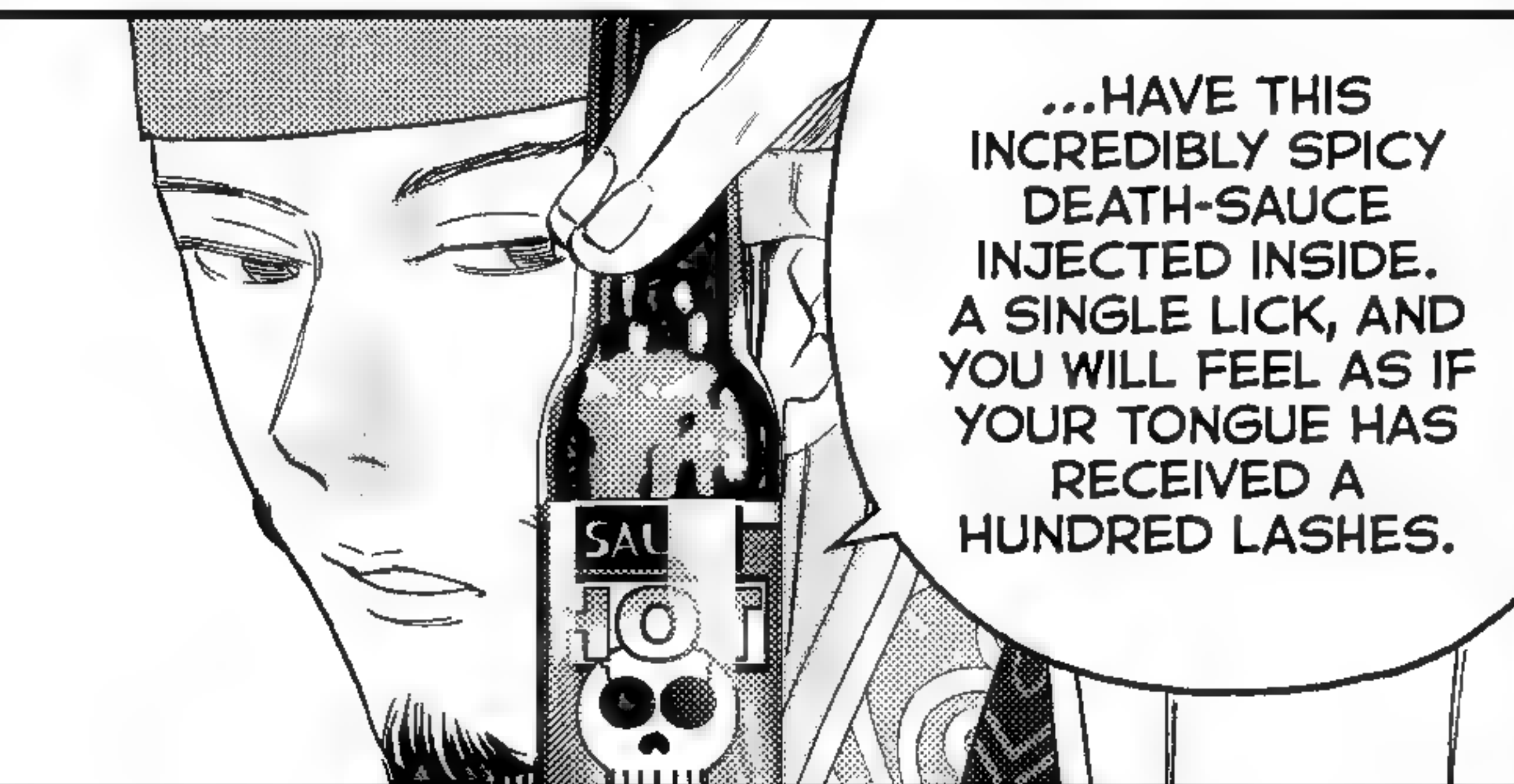
CLAM DOWN. THERE'S GOTTA BE A FEW COS-PLAYERS AROUND THE FESTIVAL.

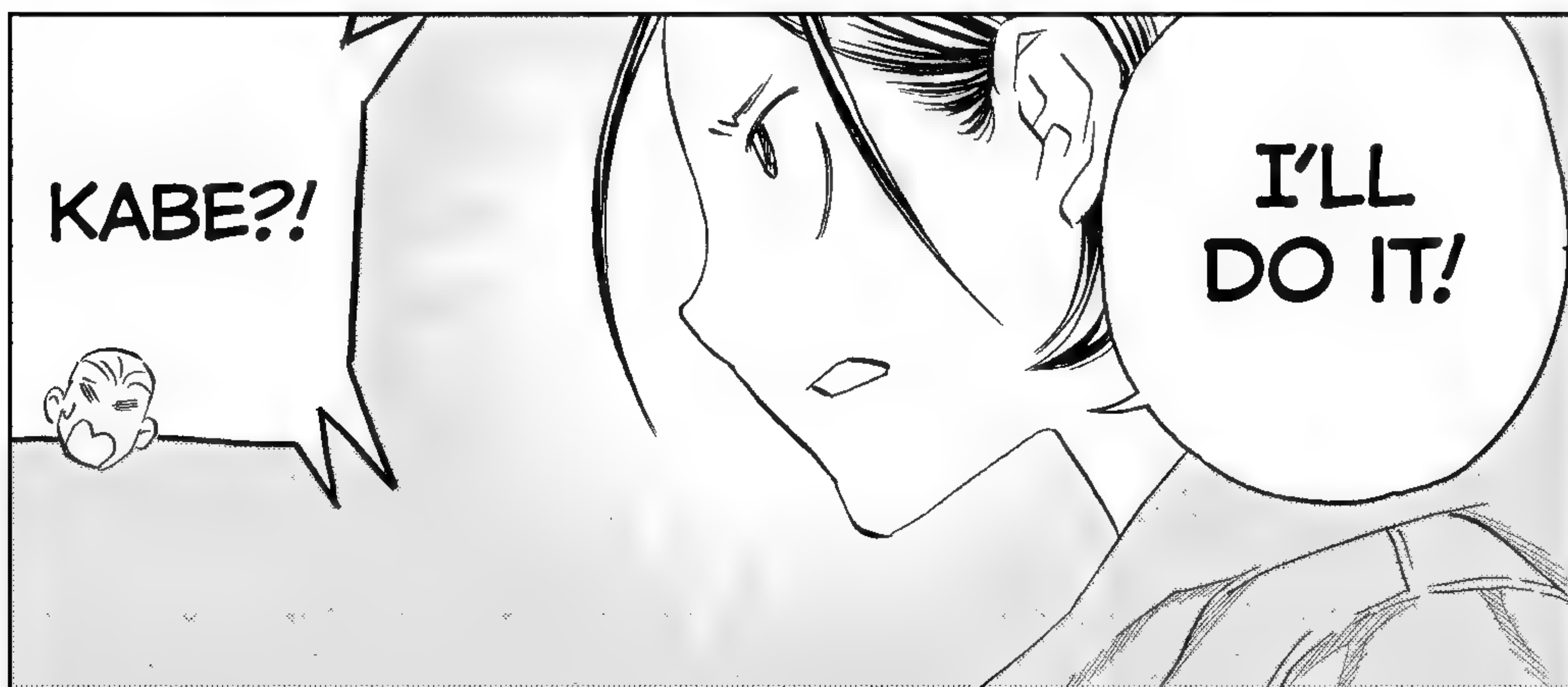
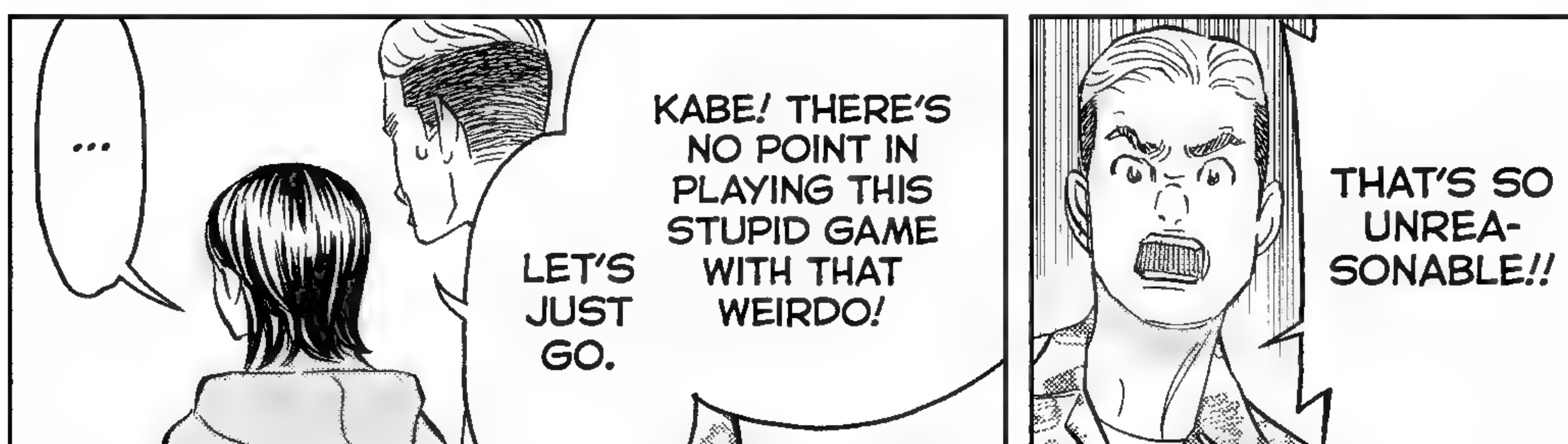
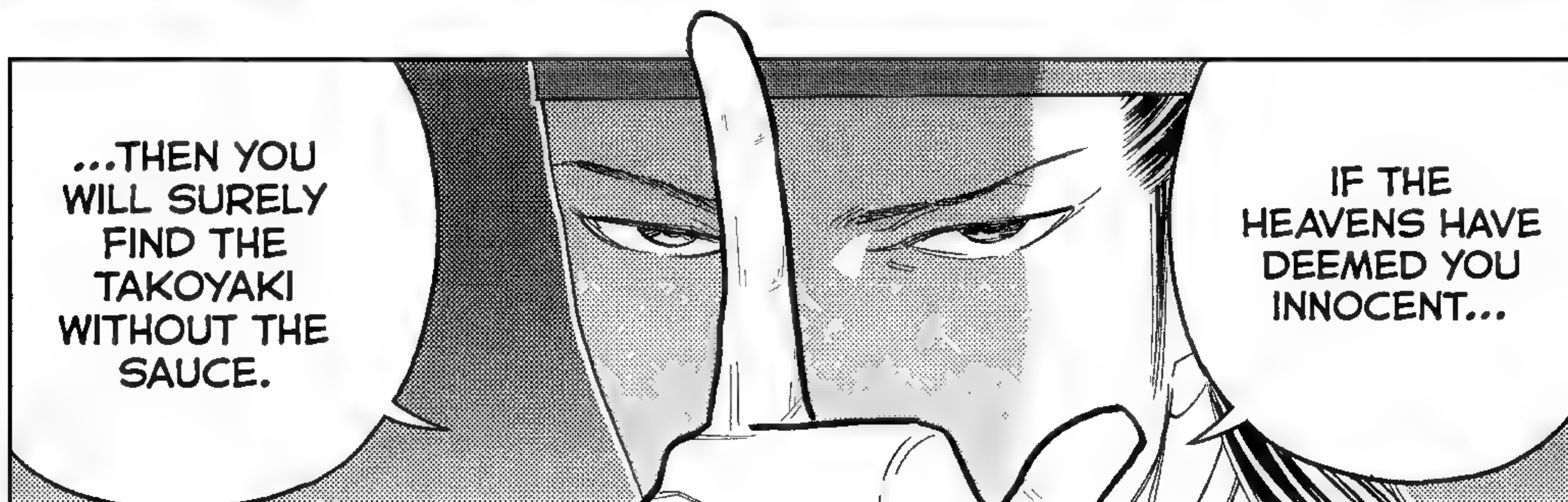
MISTAKE YOU?! WITH WHO?!

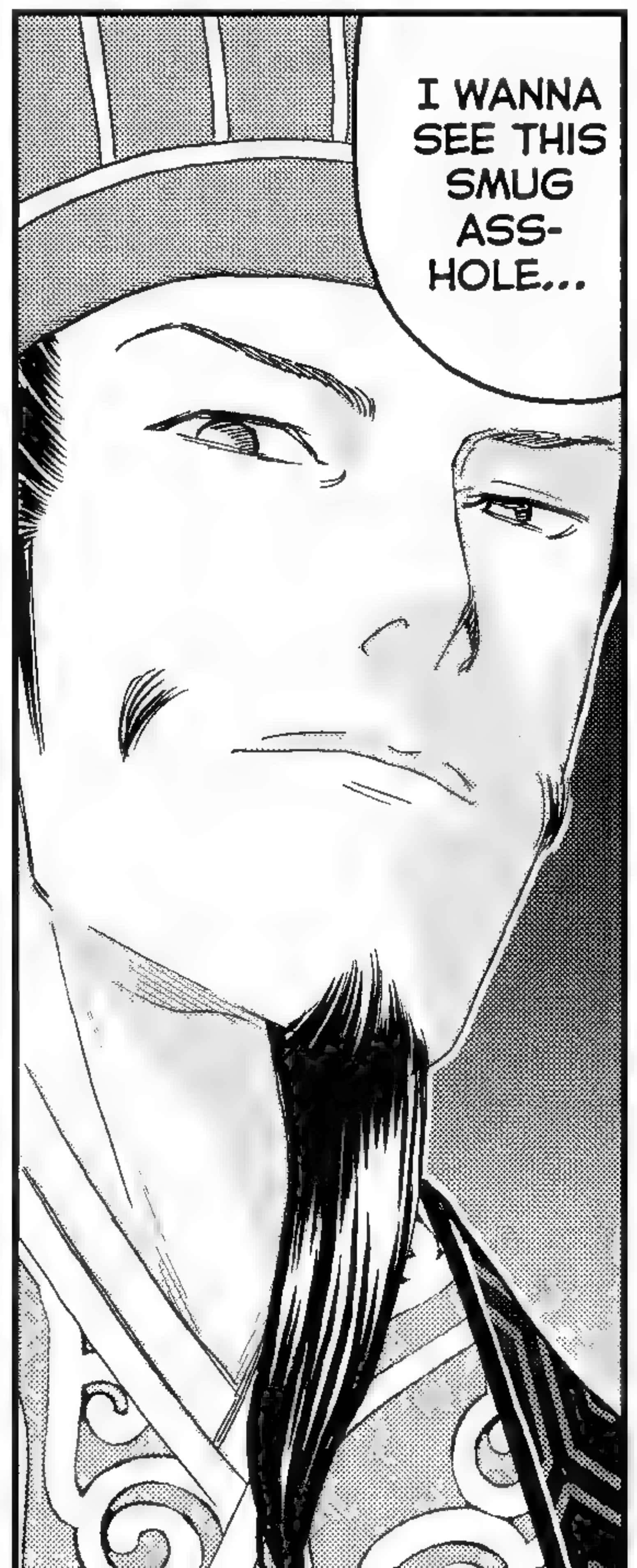
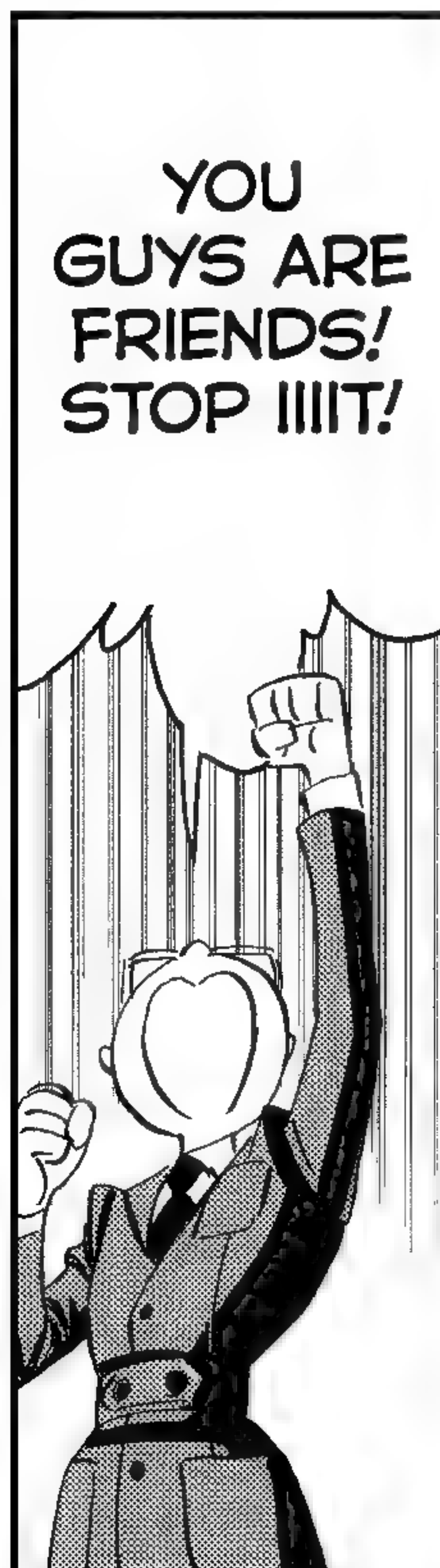
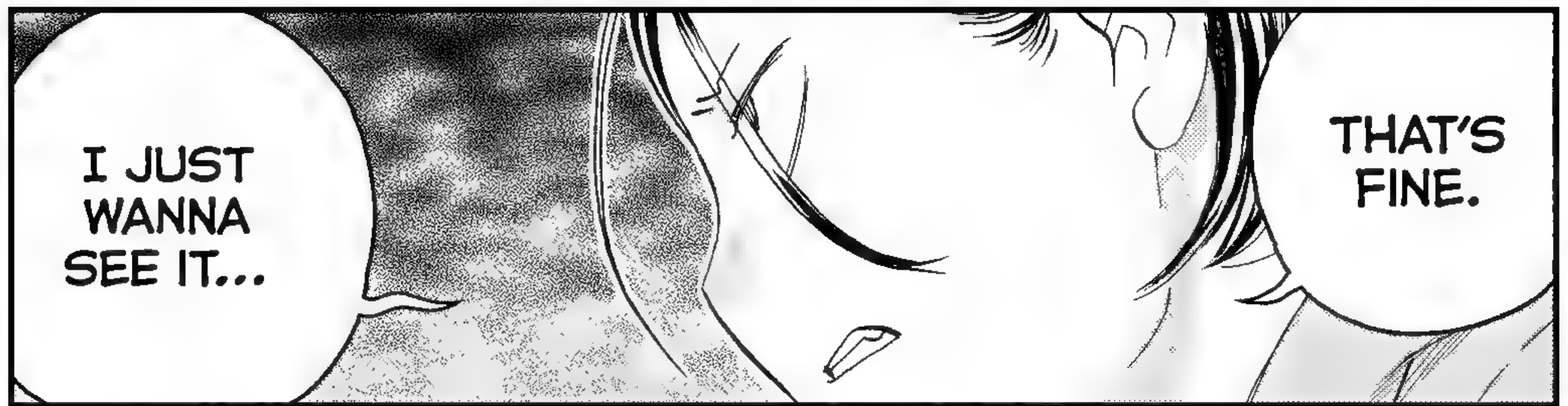
OH? ARE YOU SURE YOU HAVEN'T MISTAKEN ME FOR SOMEONE ELSE?



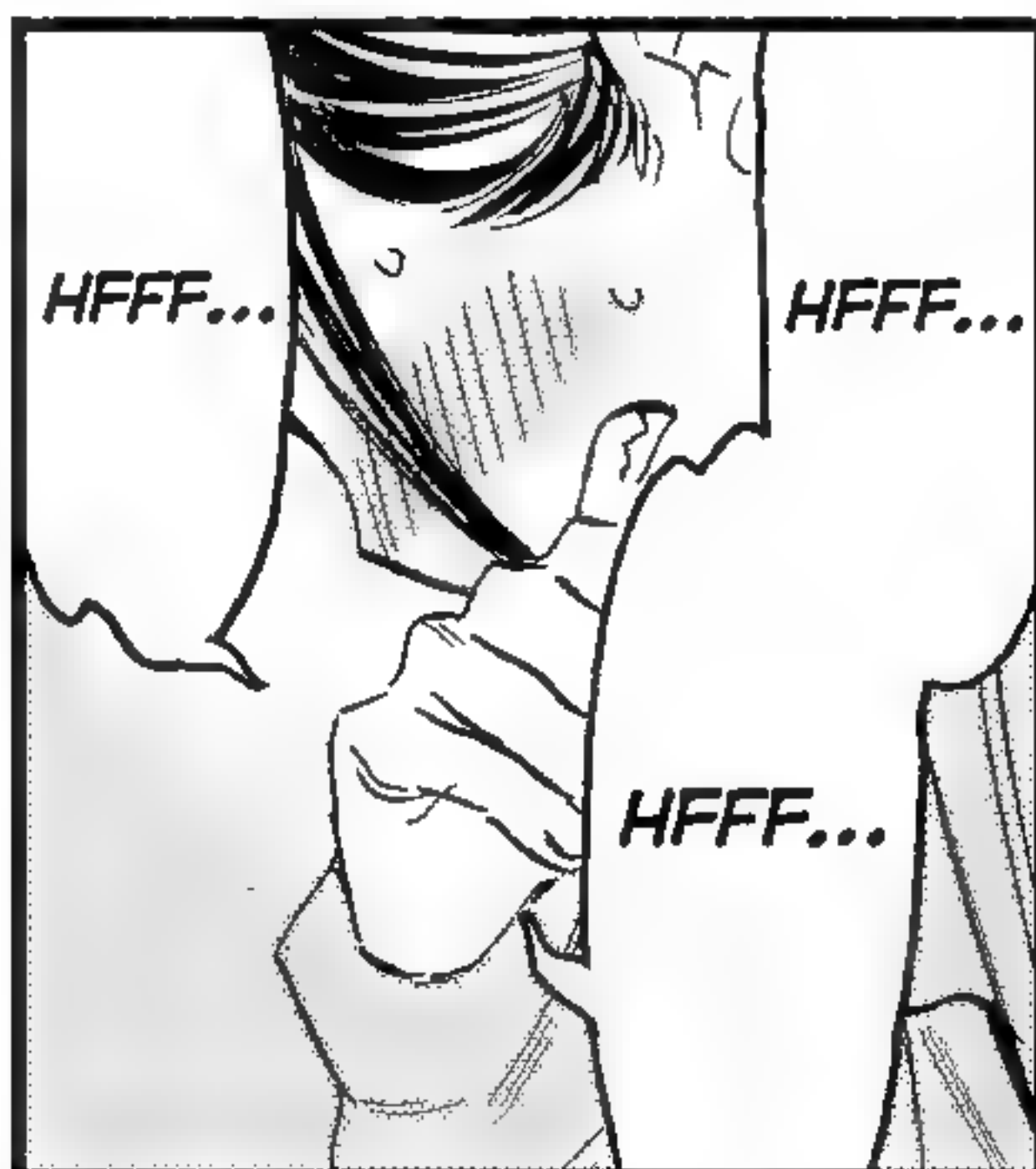
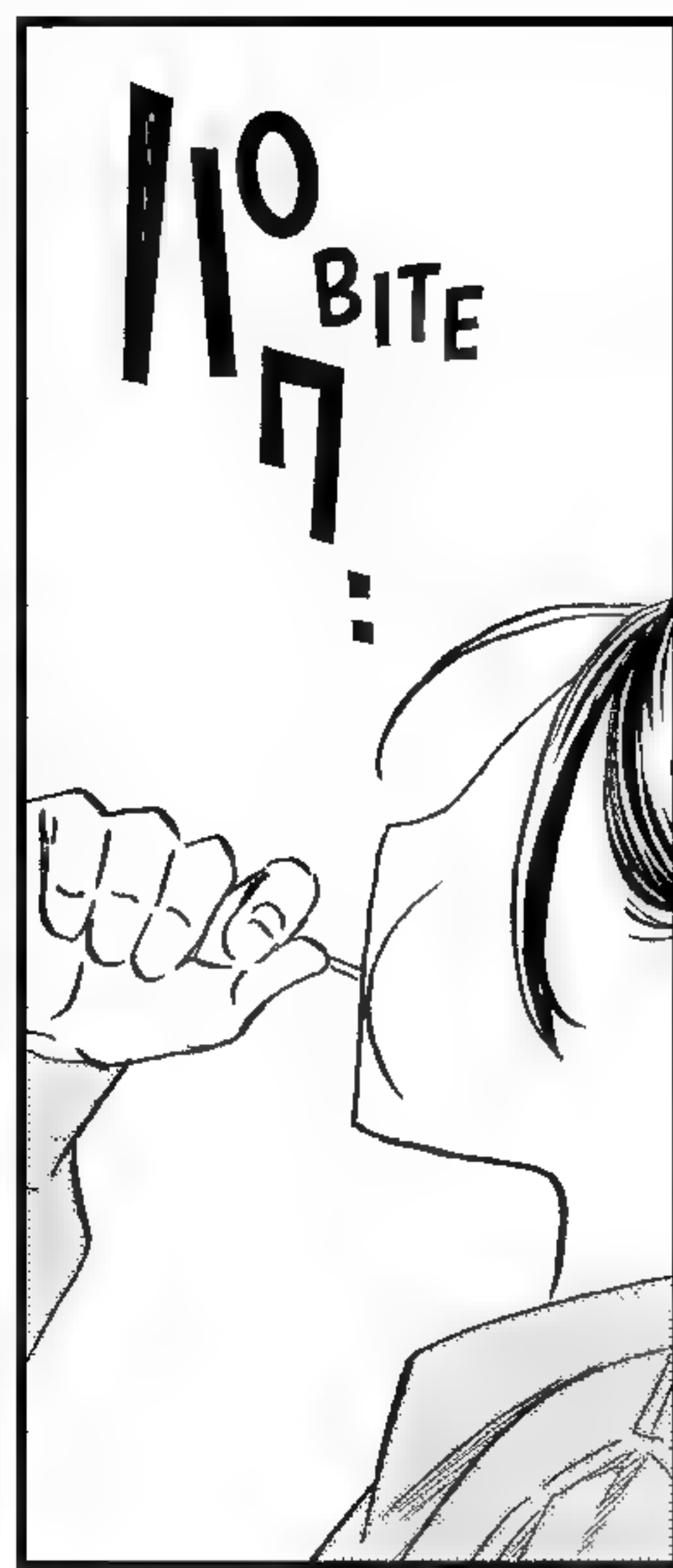










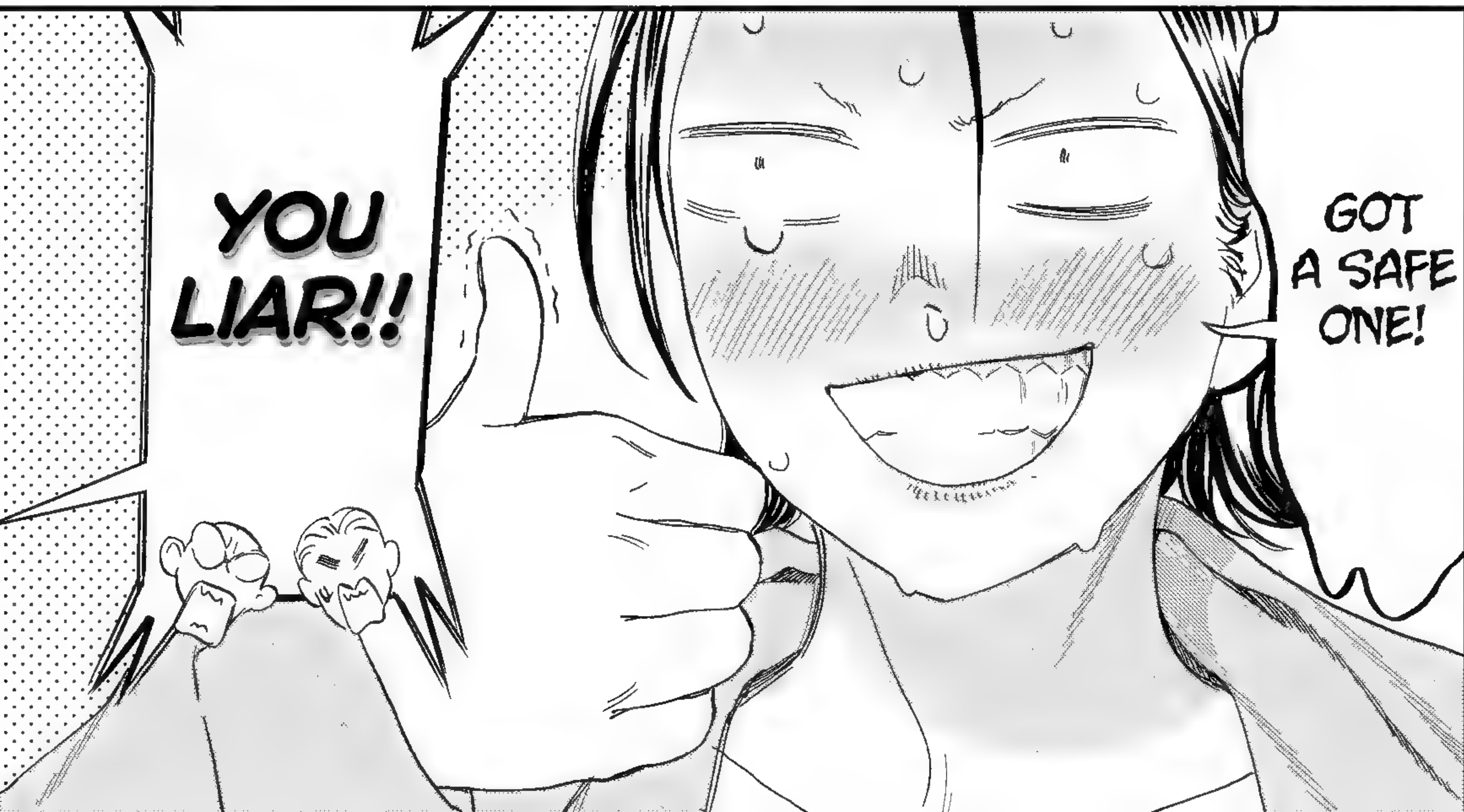


KABE?!
DID YOU
GET
ONE OF
THE BAD
ONES?!
SPIT IT
OUT!

SLAP

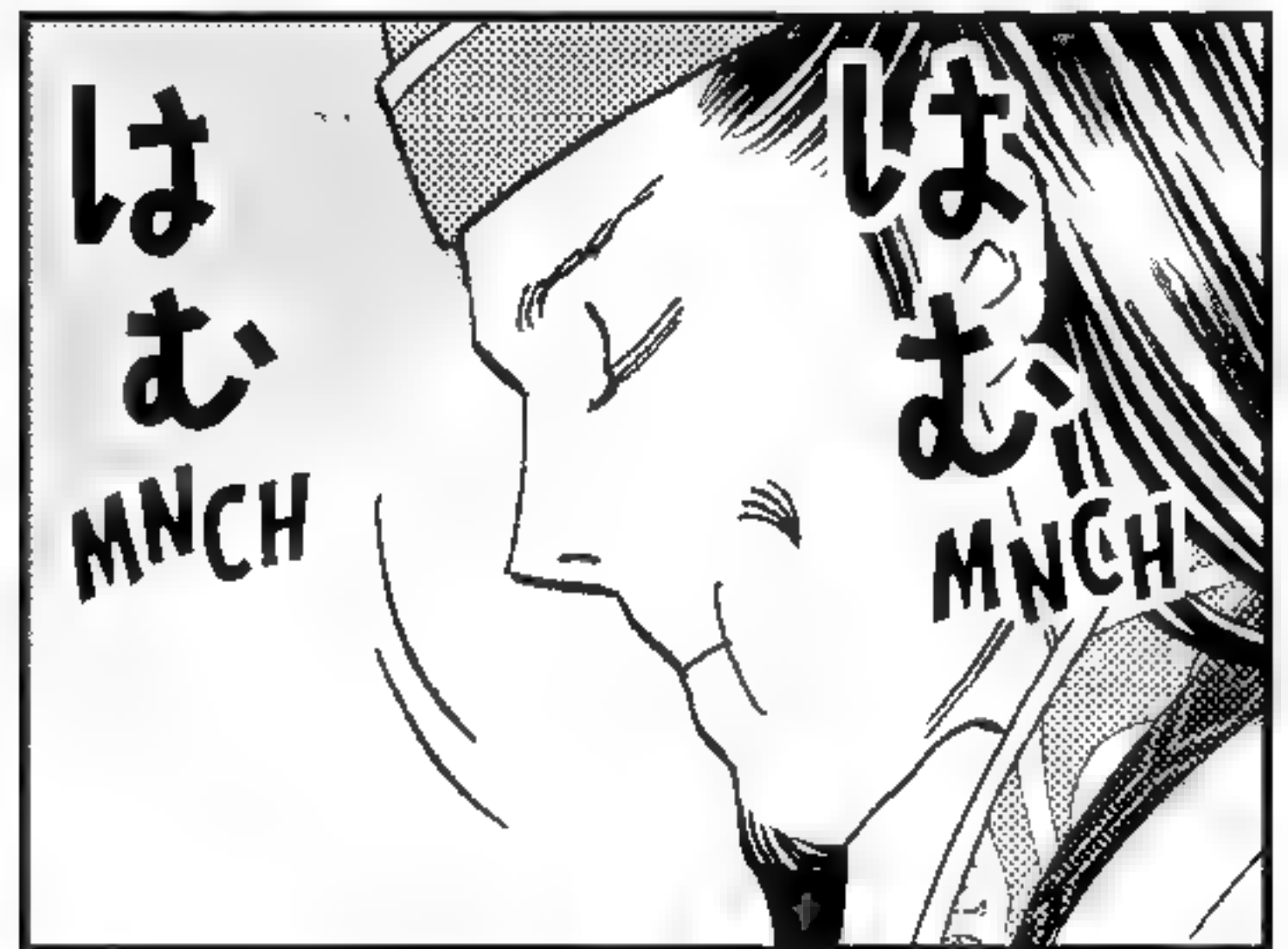
...!!

SLAP

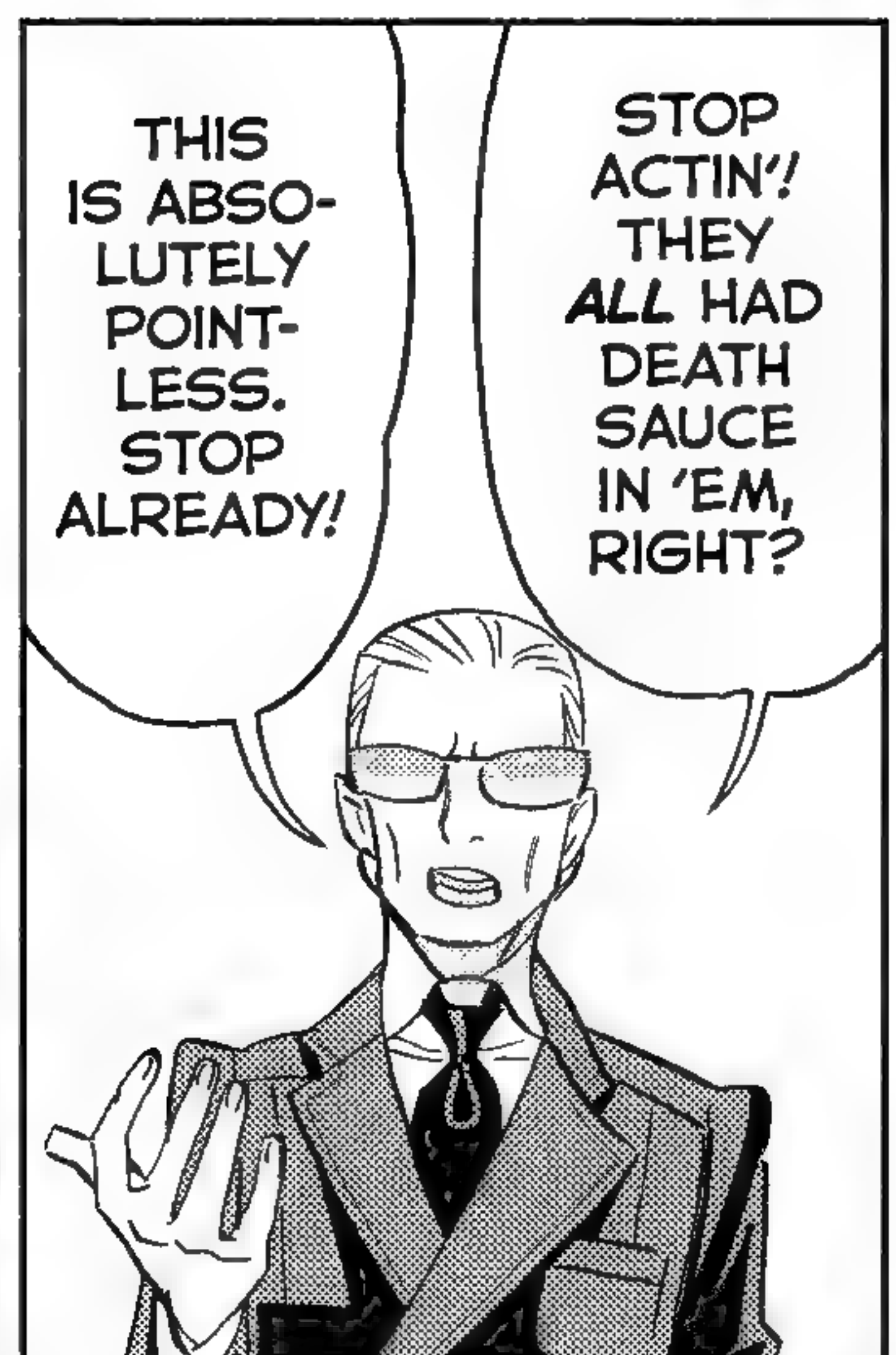
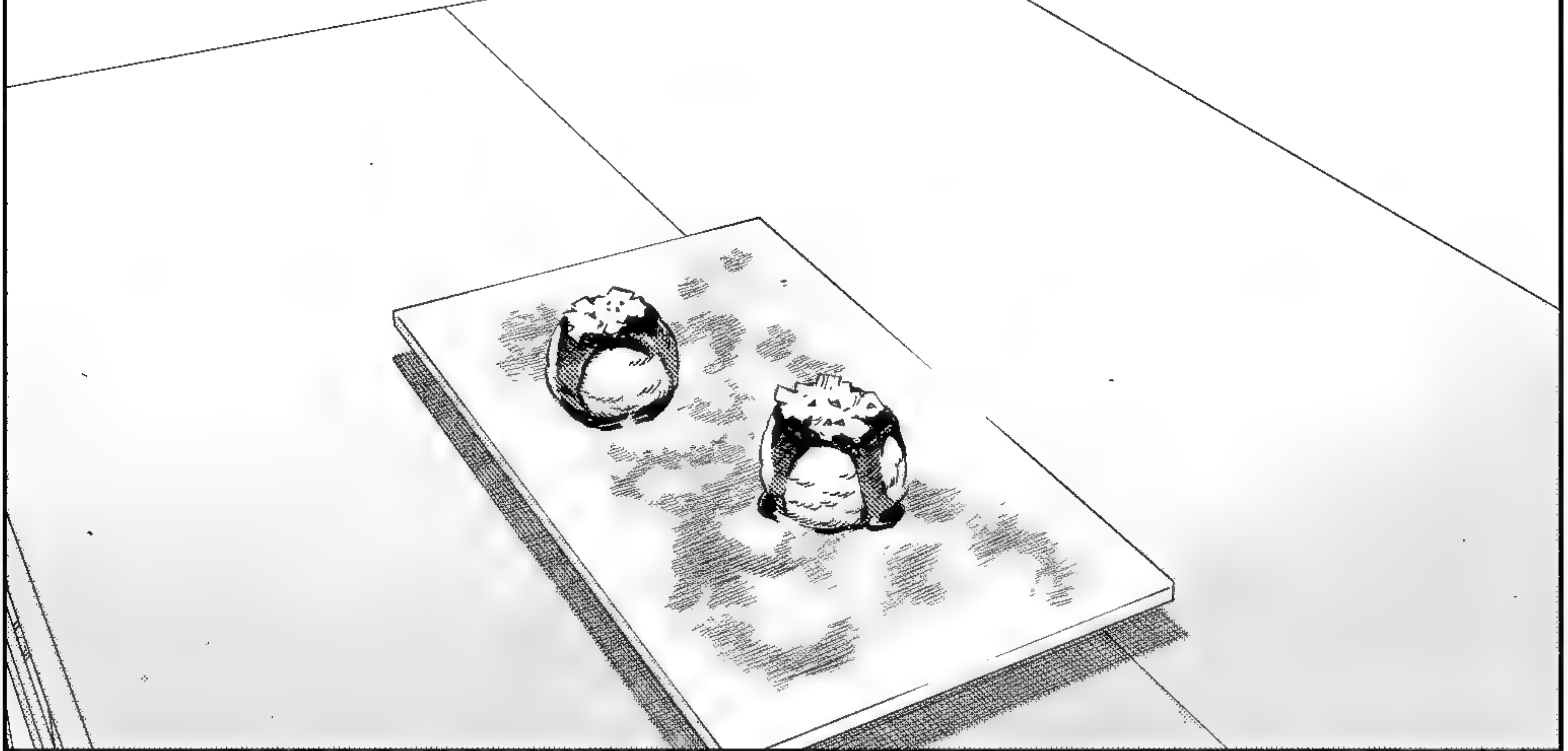


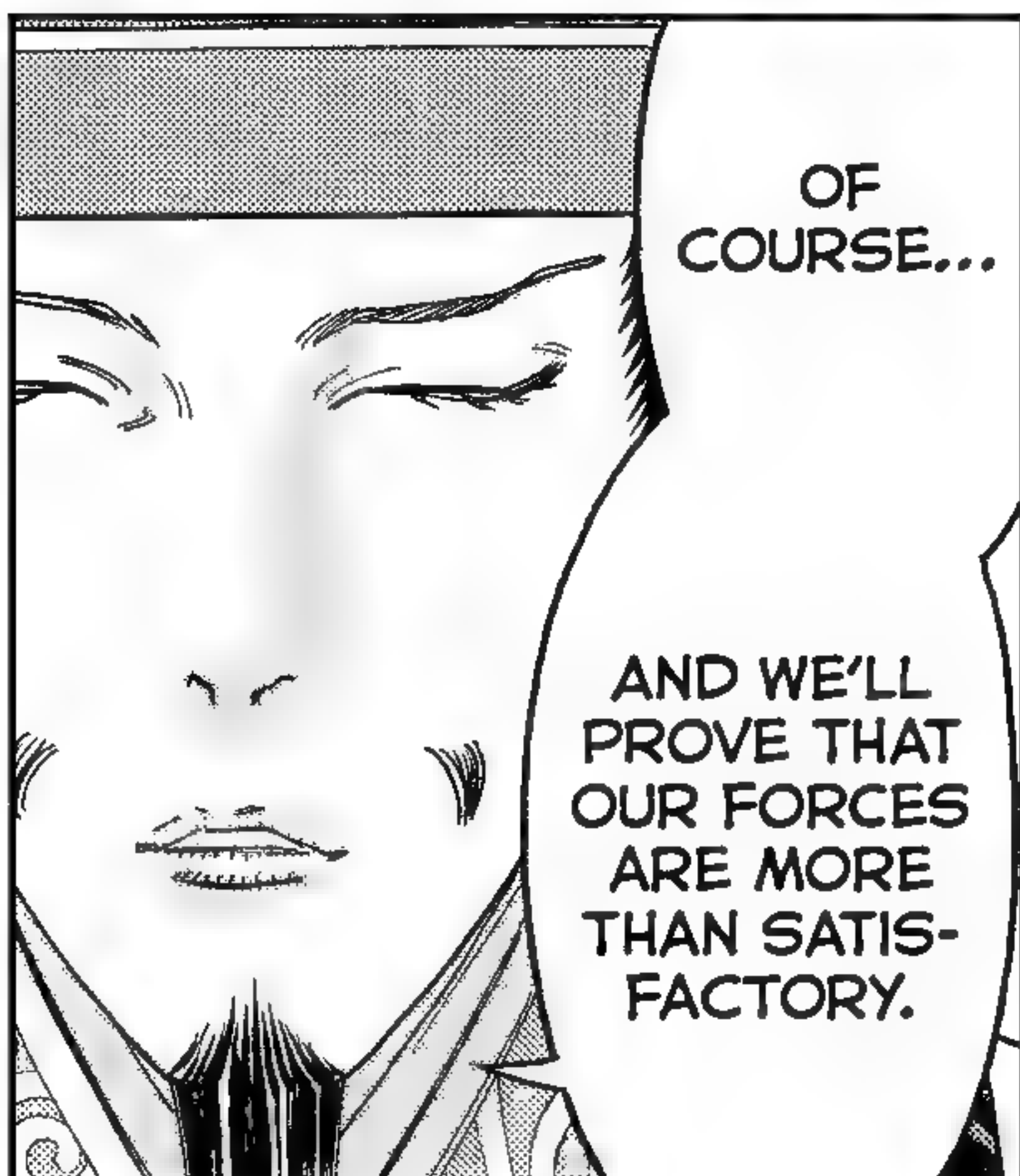
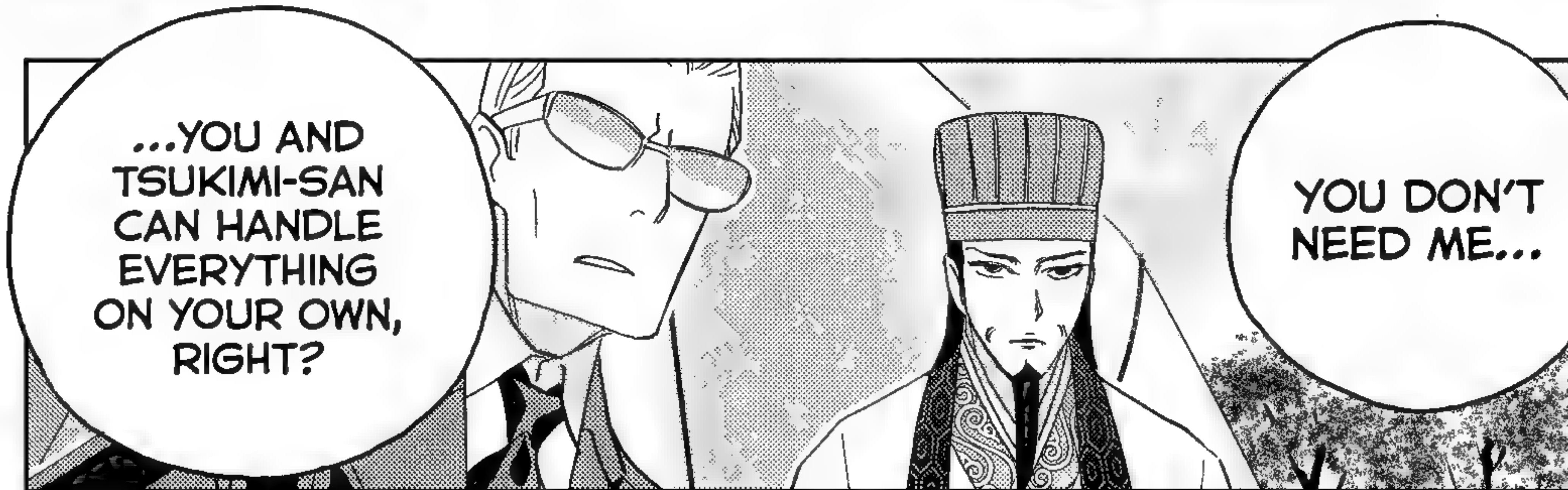
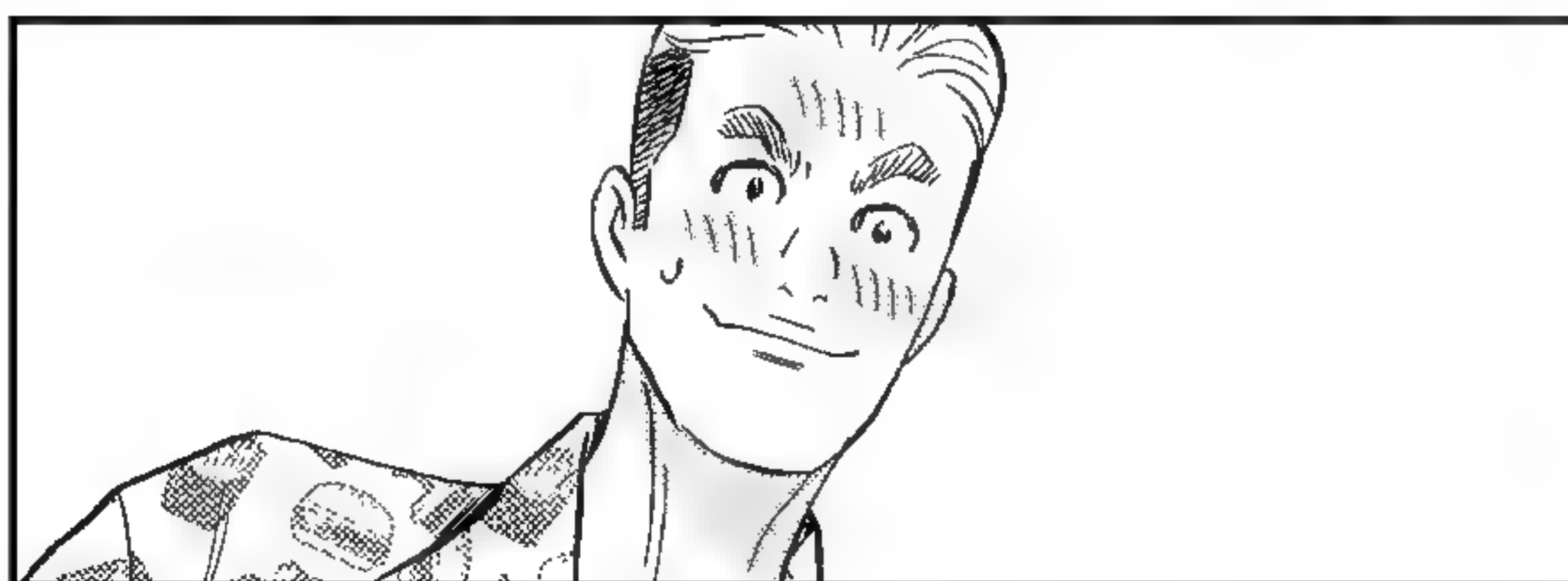
YOU
LIAR!!

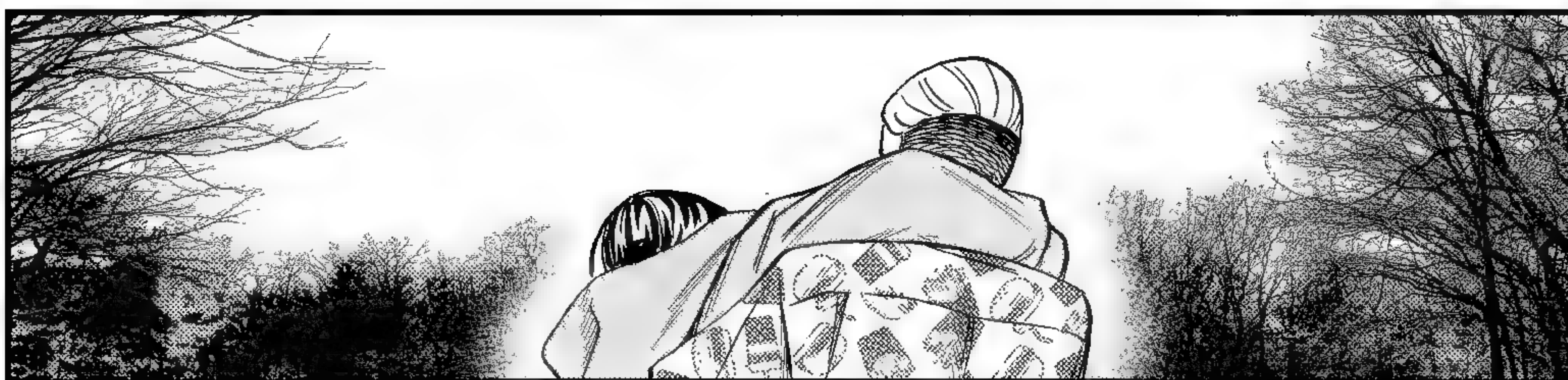
GOT
A SAFE
ONE!











1971
Boy
Knows
Nothing!

KABE...

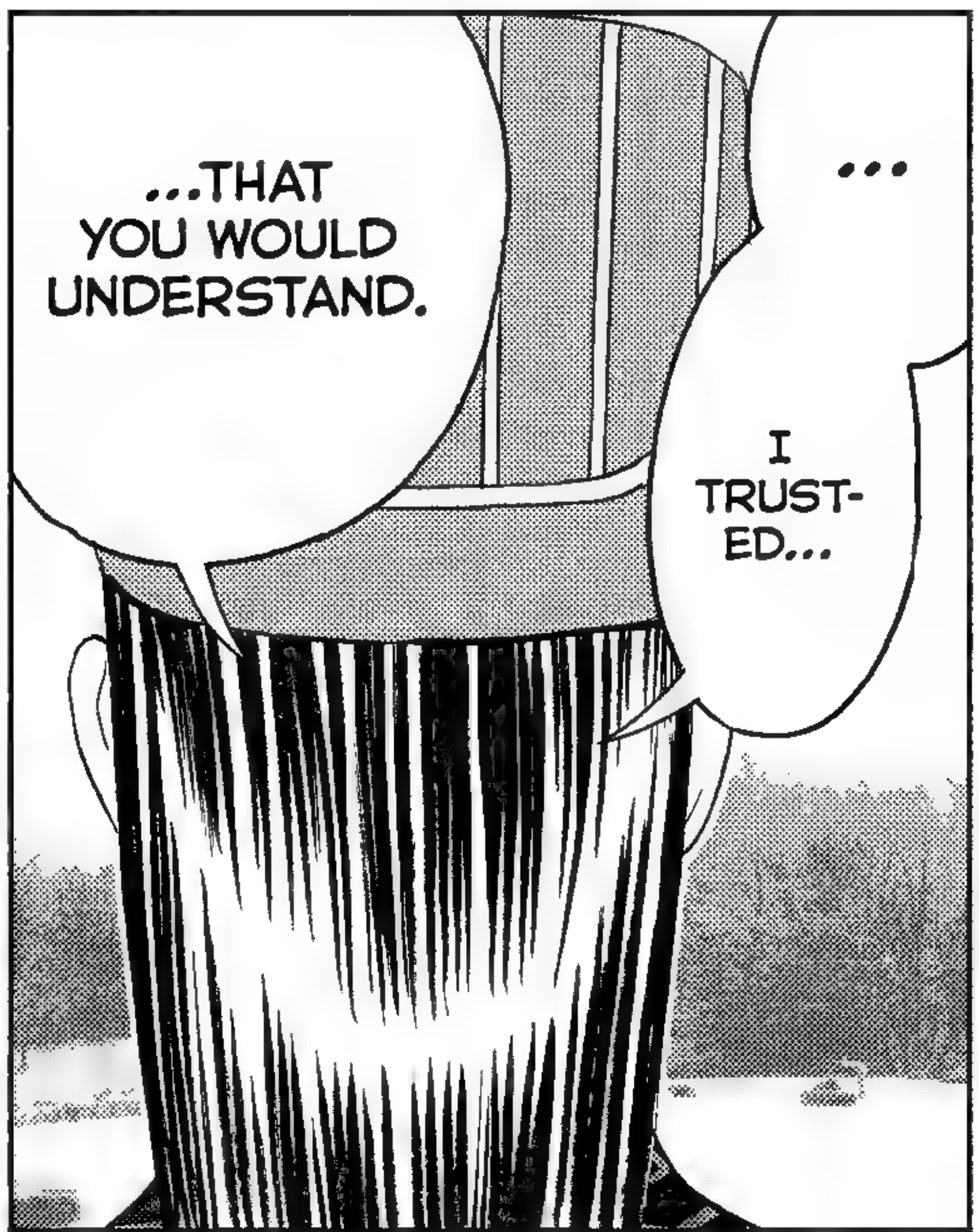
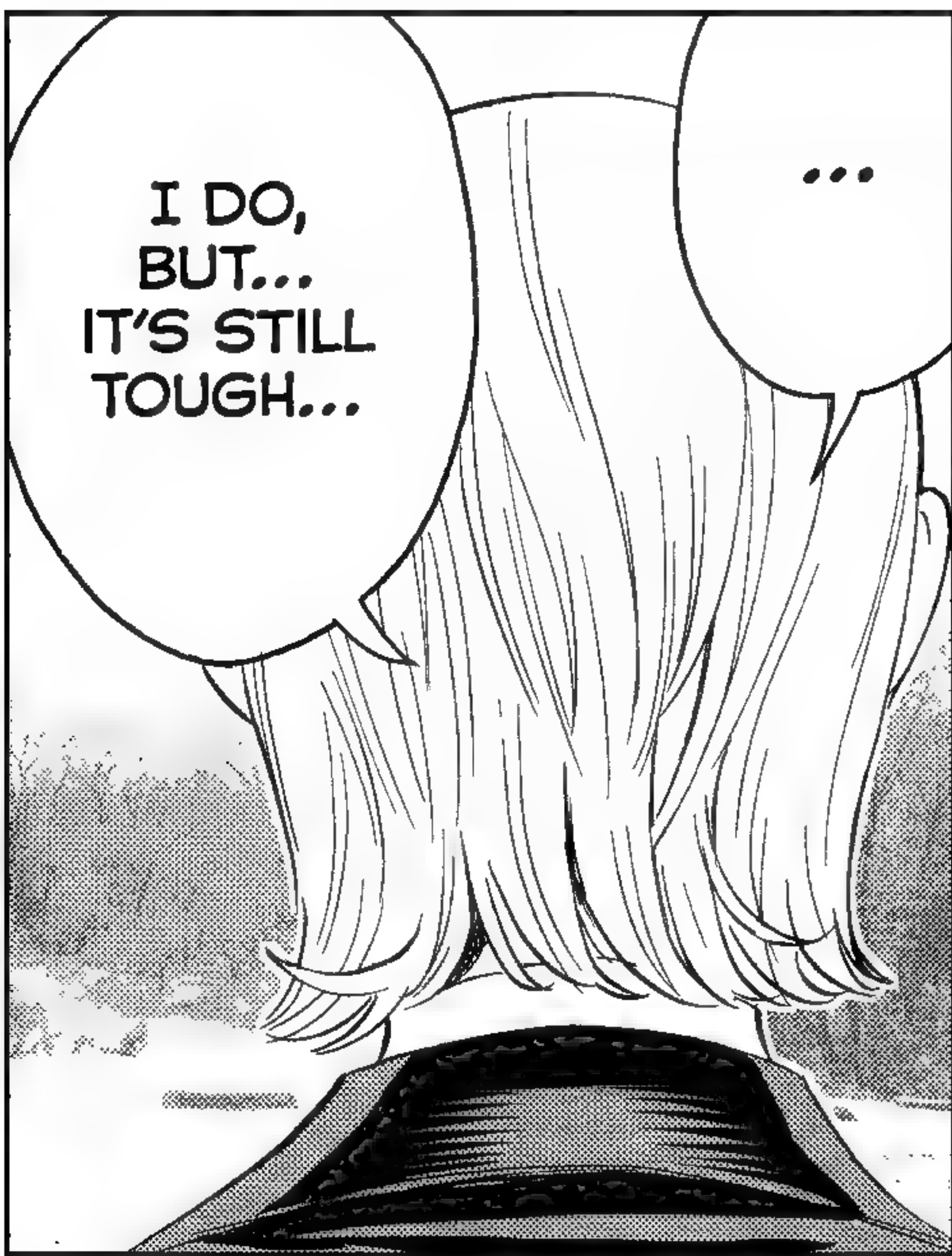
HE
REALLY
LEFT...

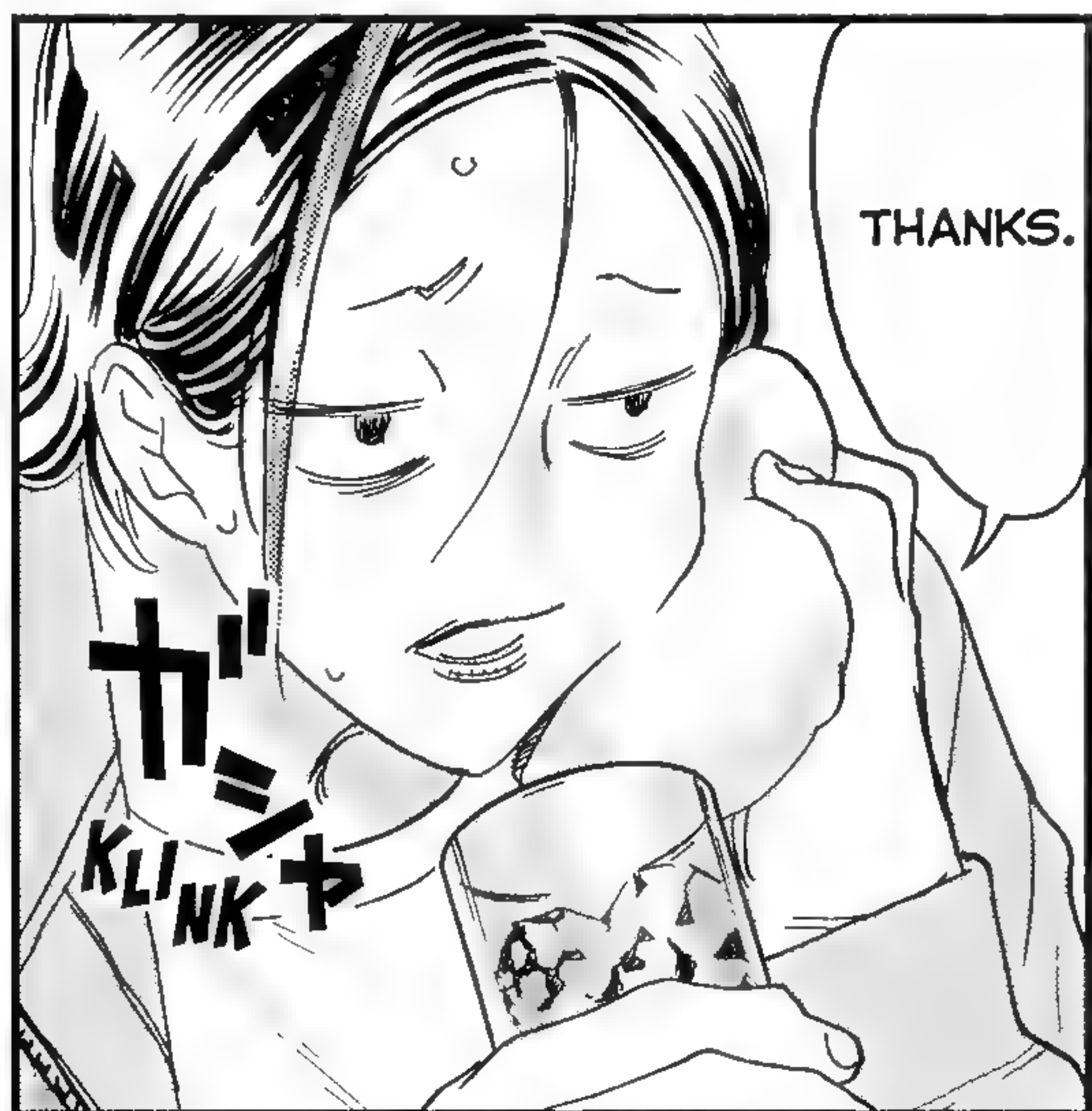
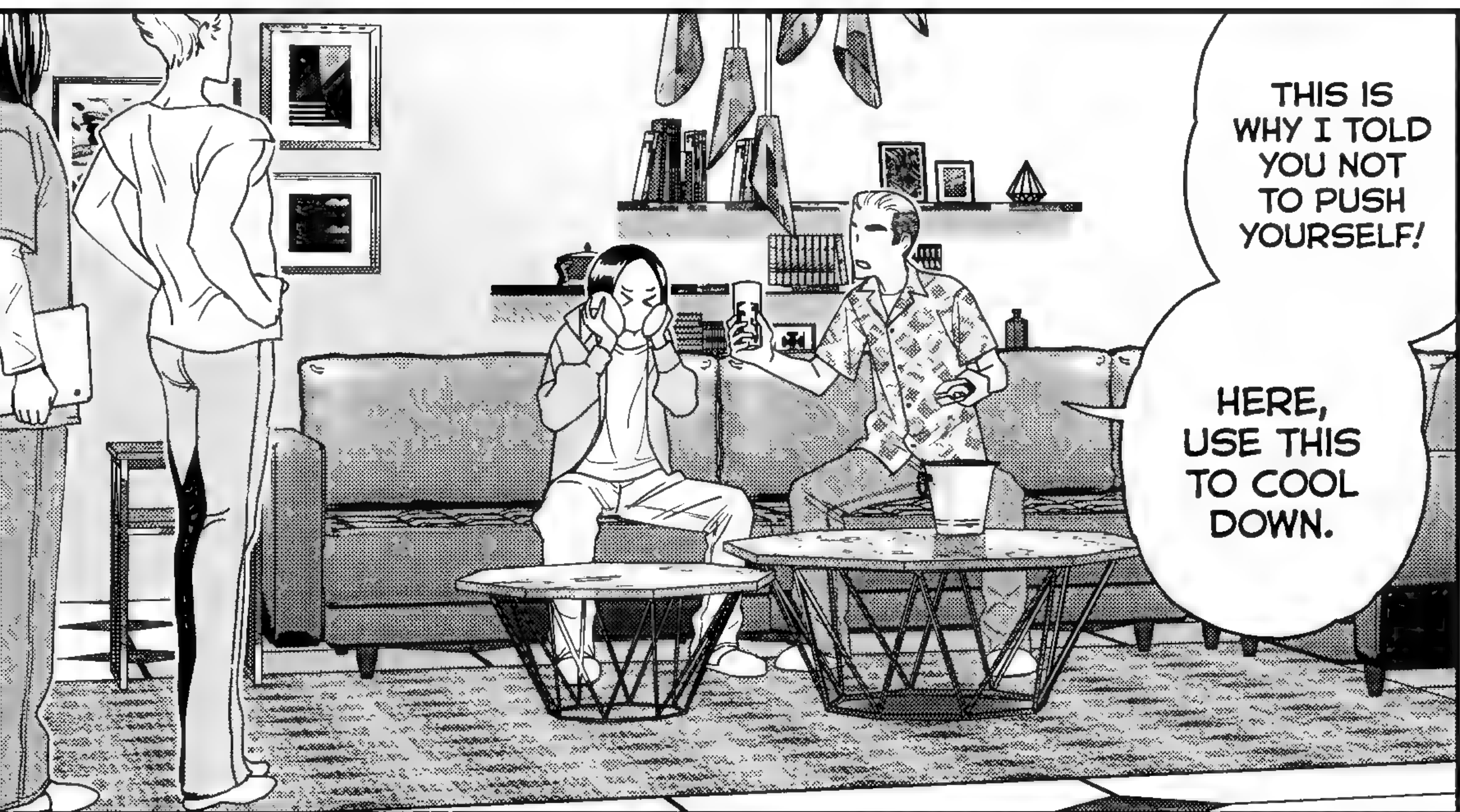
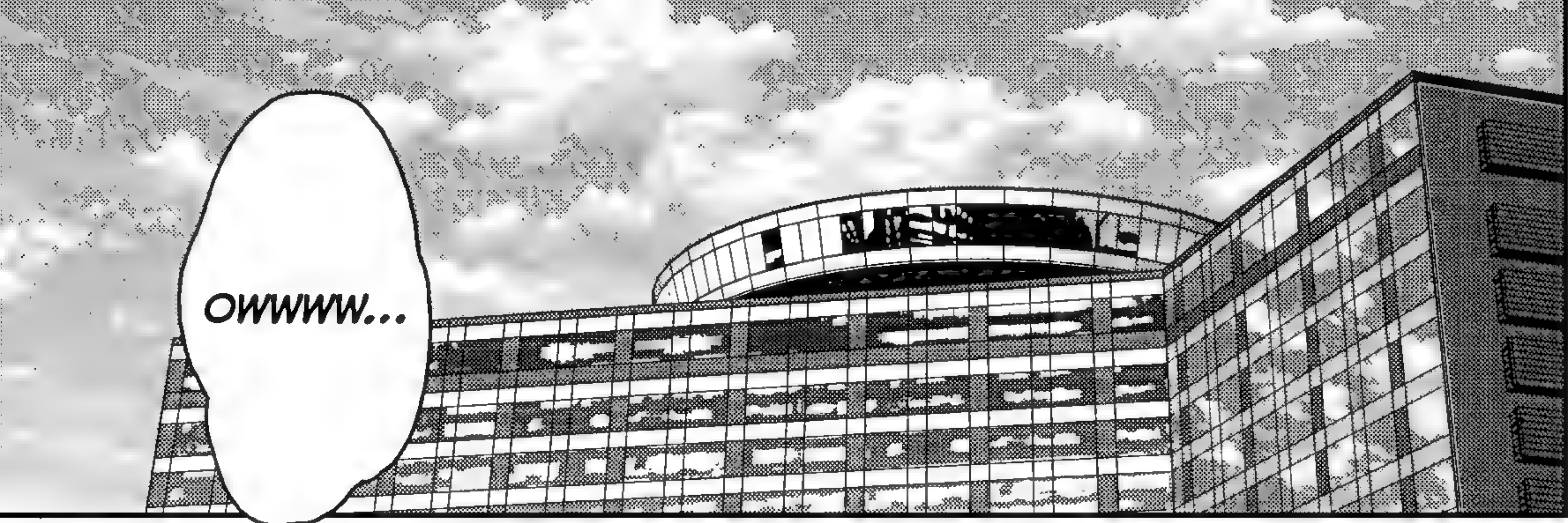
THE
"HUNDRED-
LASHES"
DEATH
SAUCE...

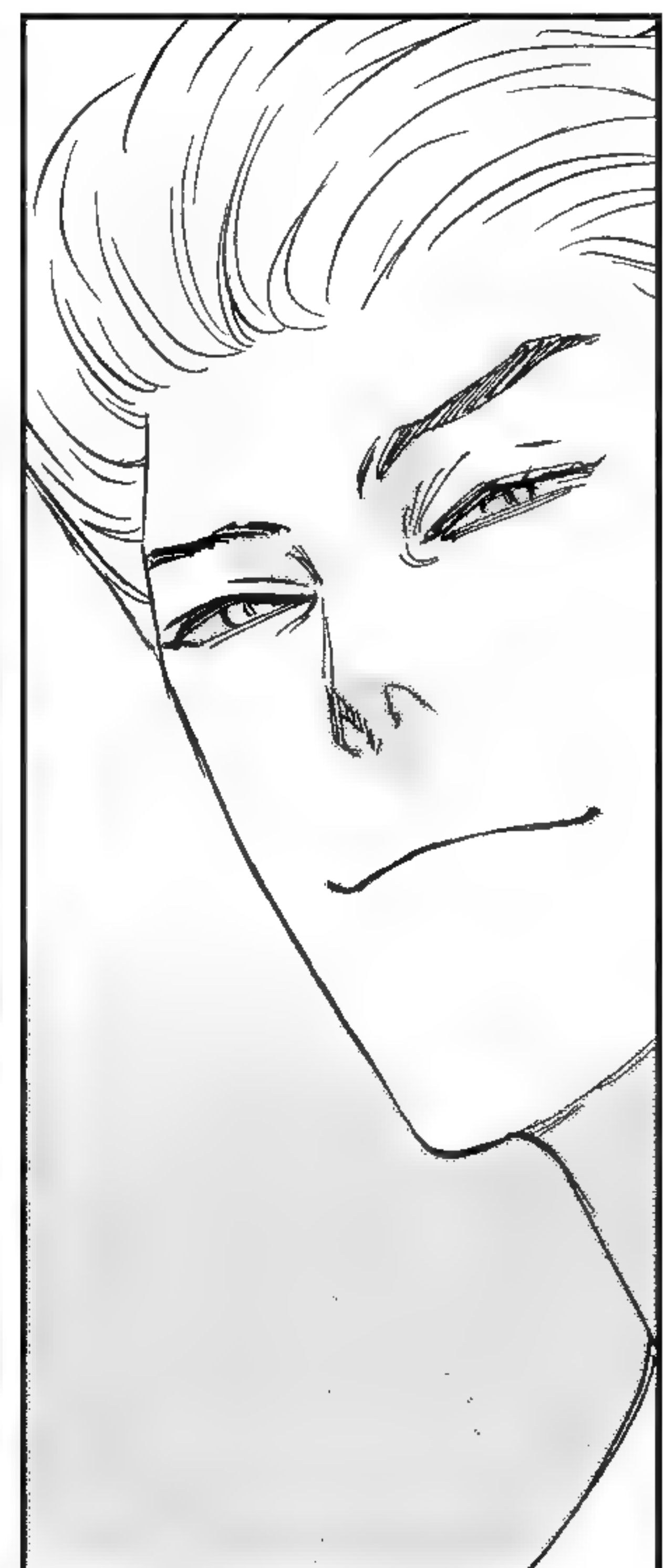
GLENCH

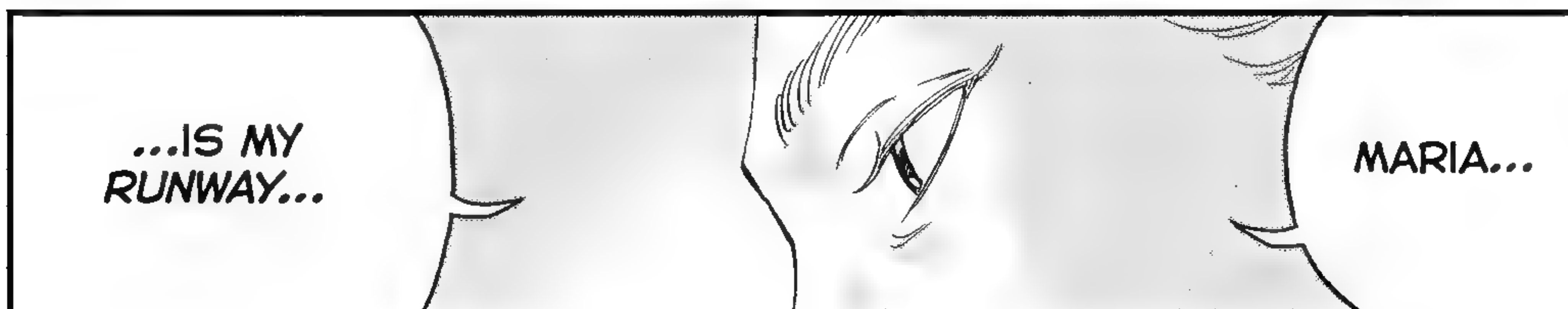
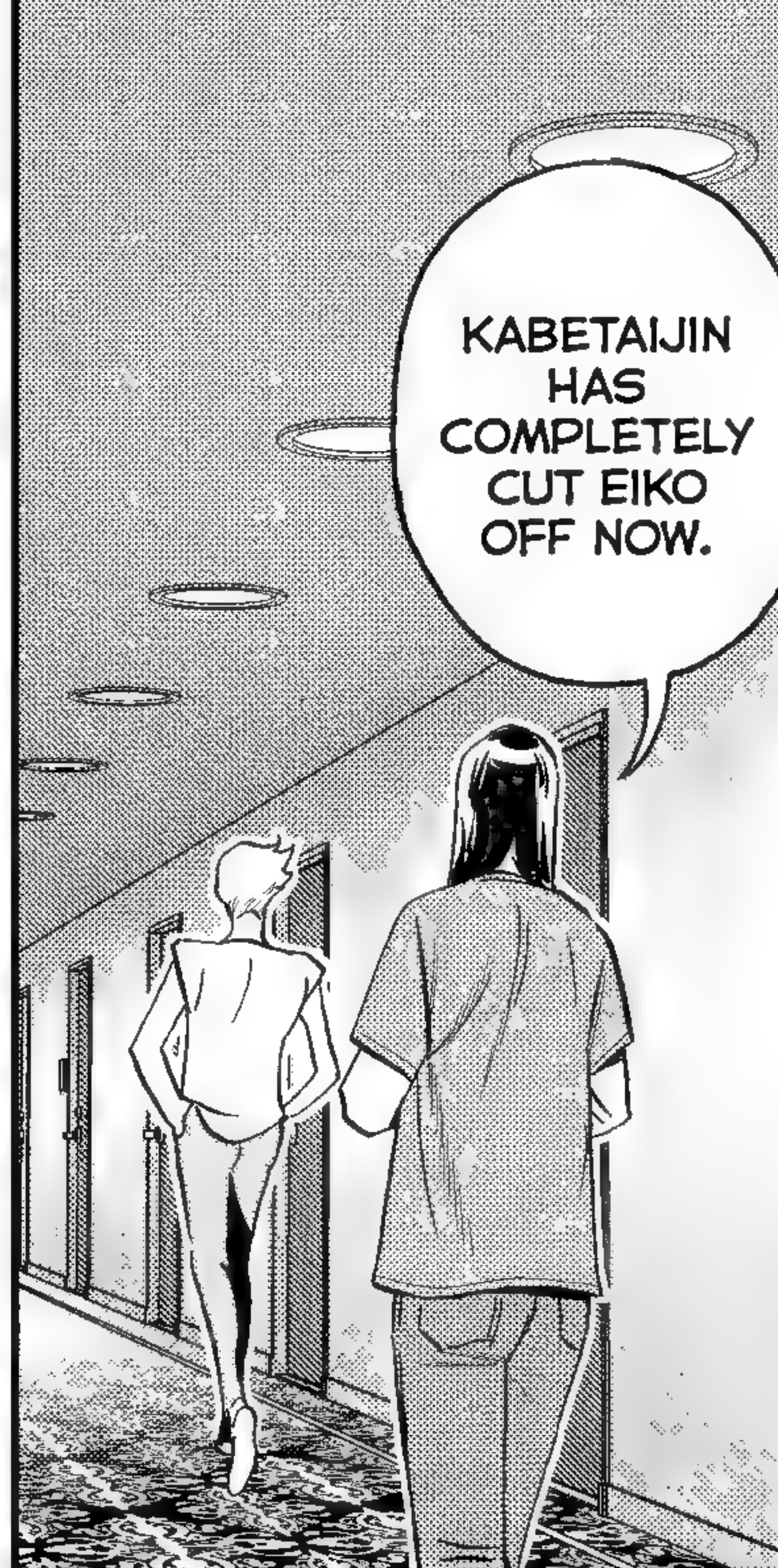
IS THIS
WHAT YOU
WANTED?

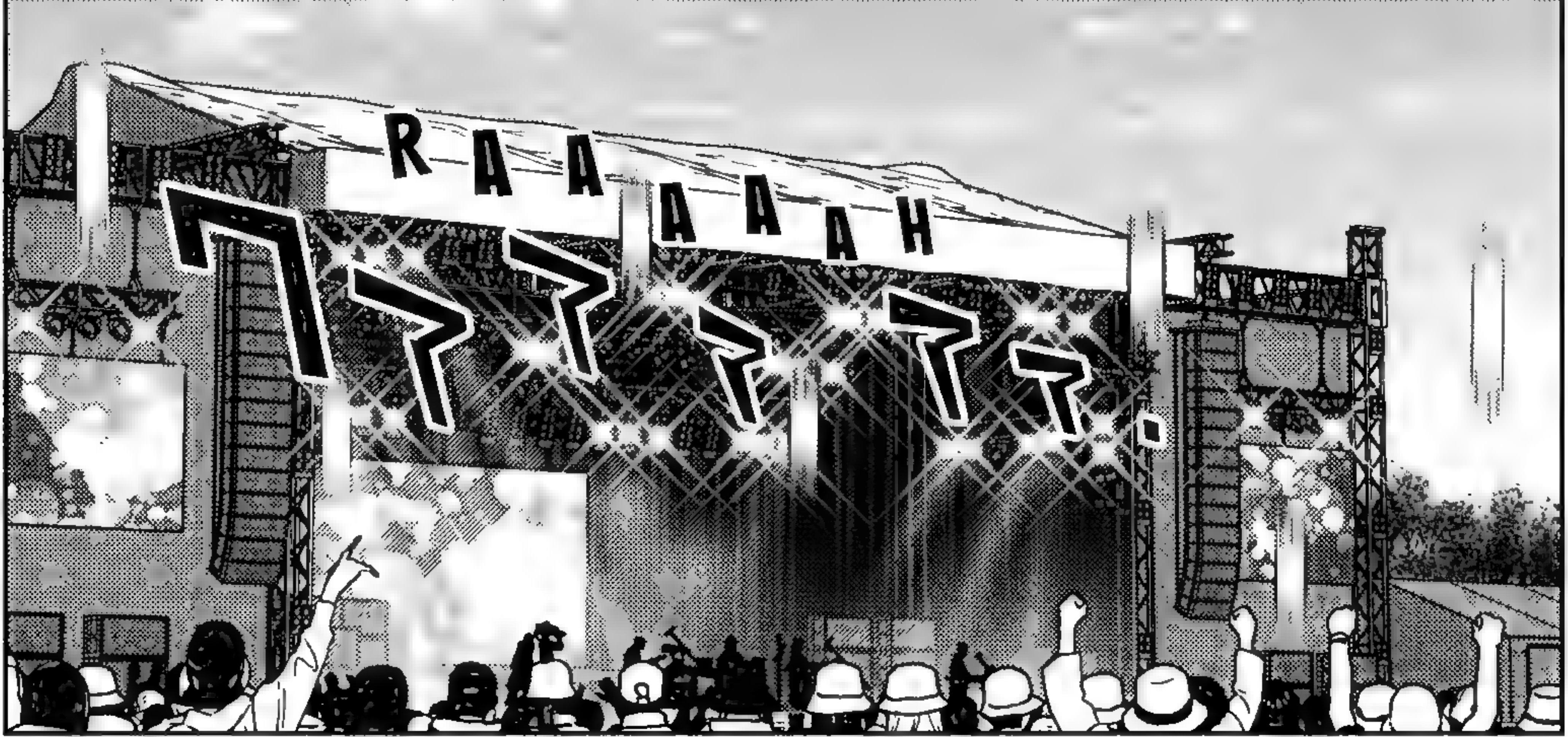
INDEED...

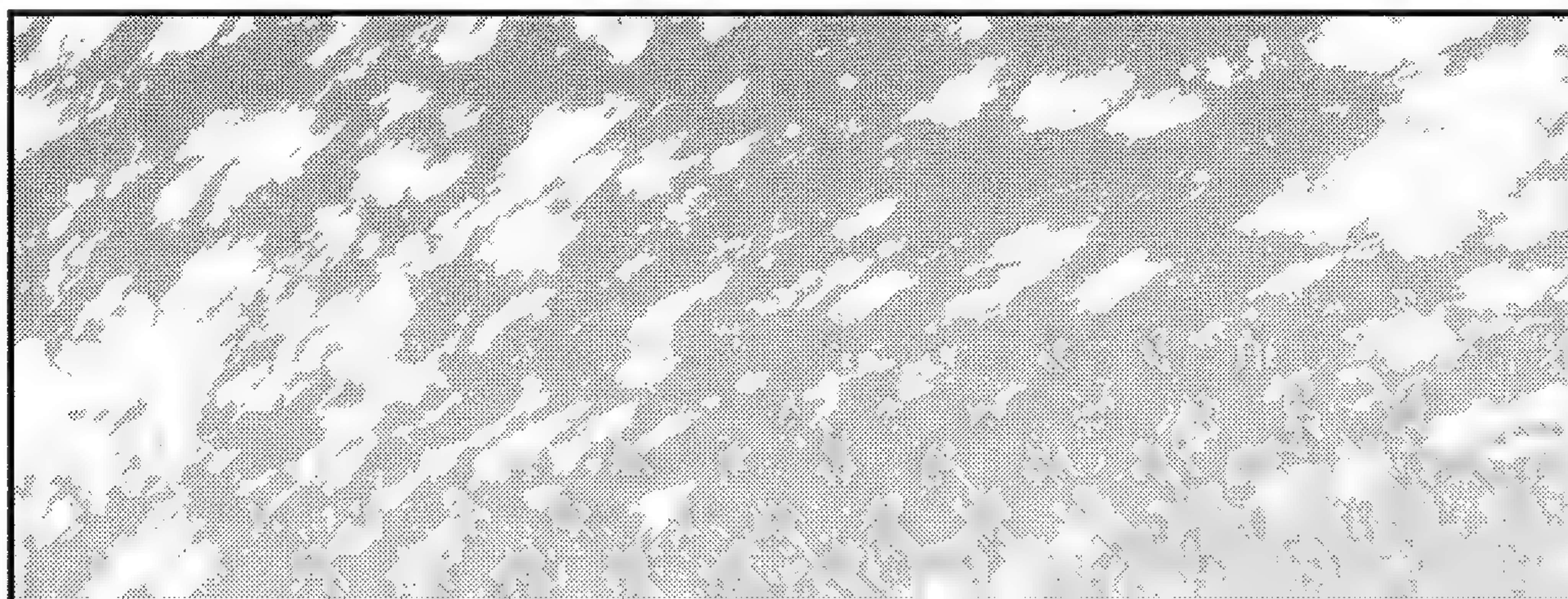
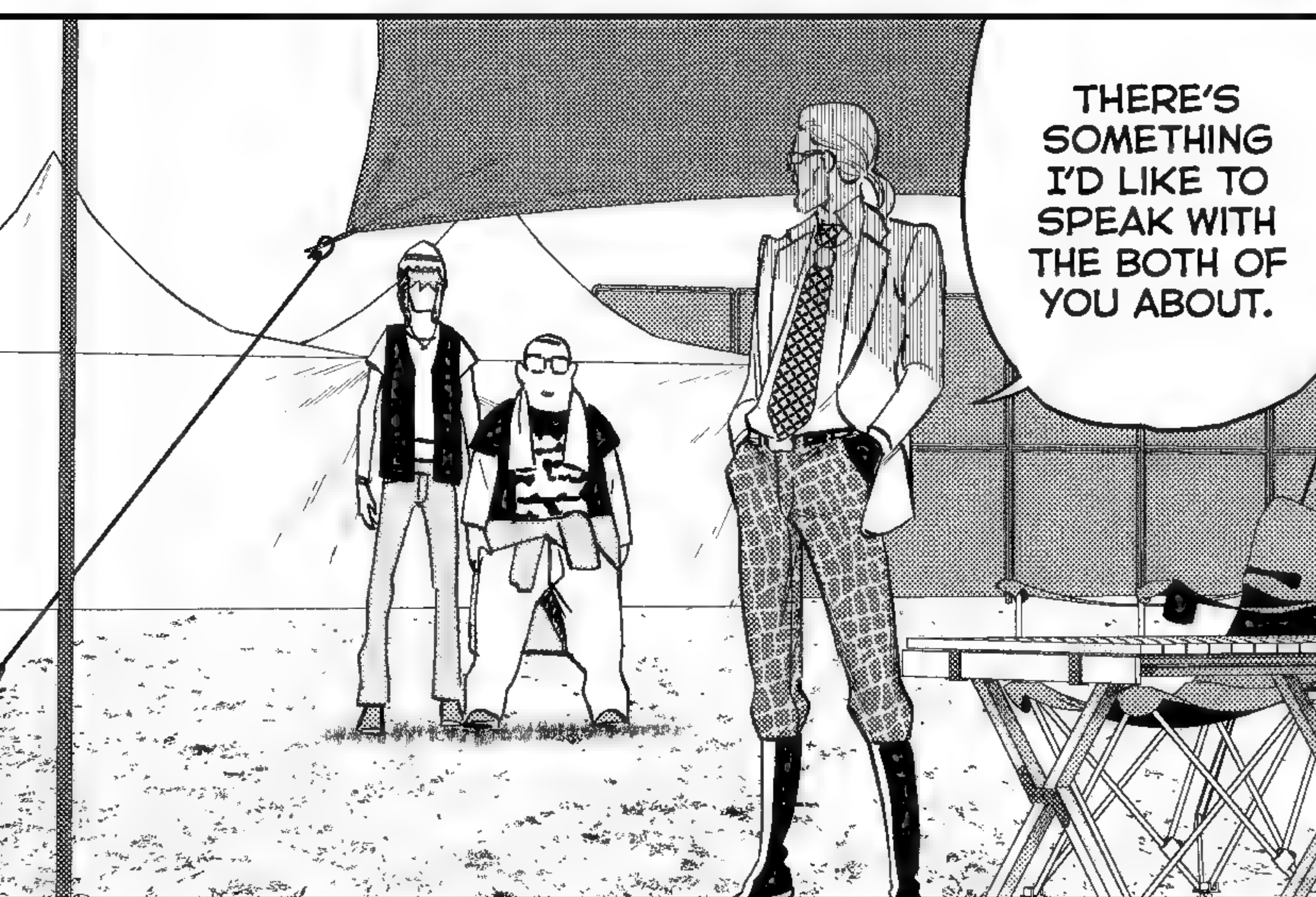


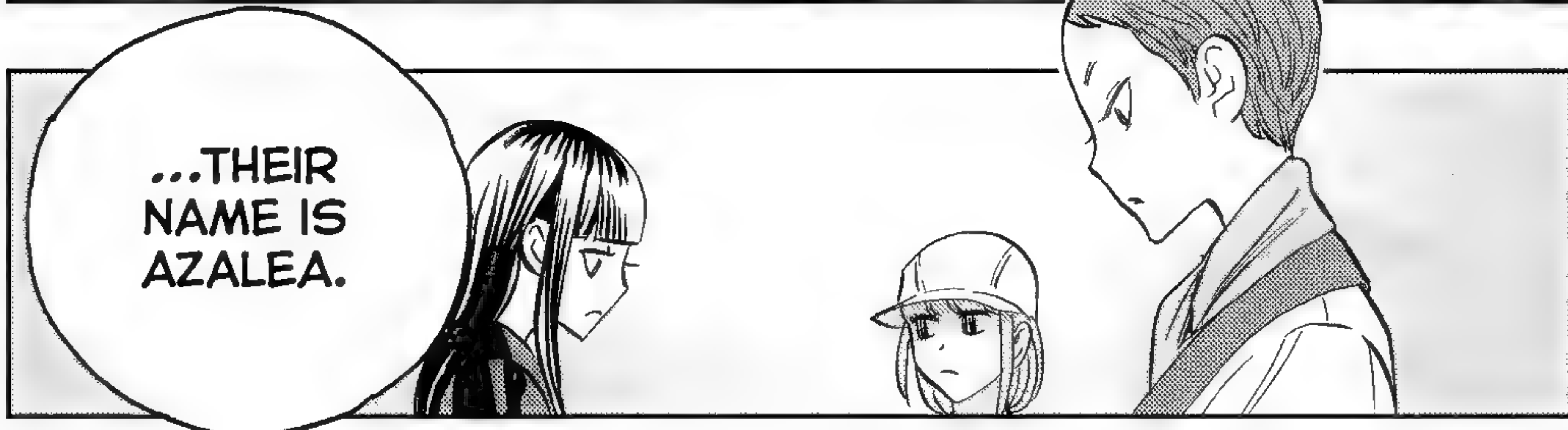


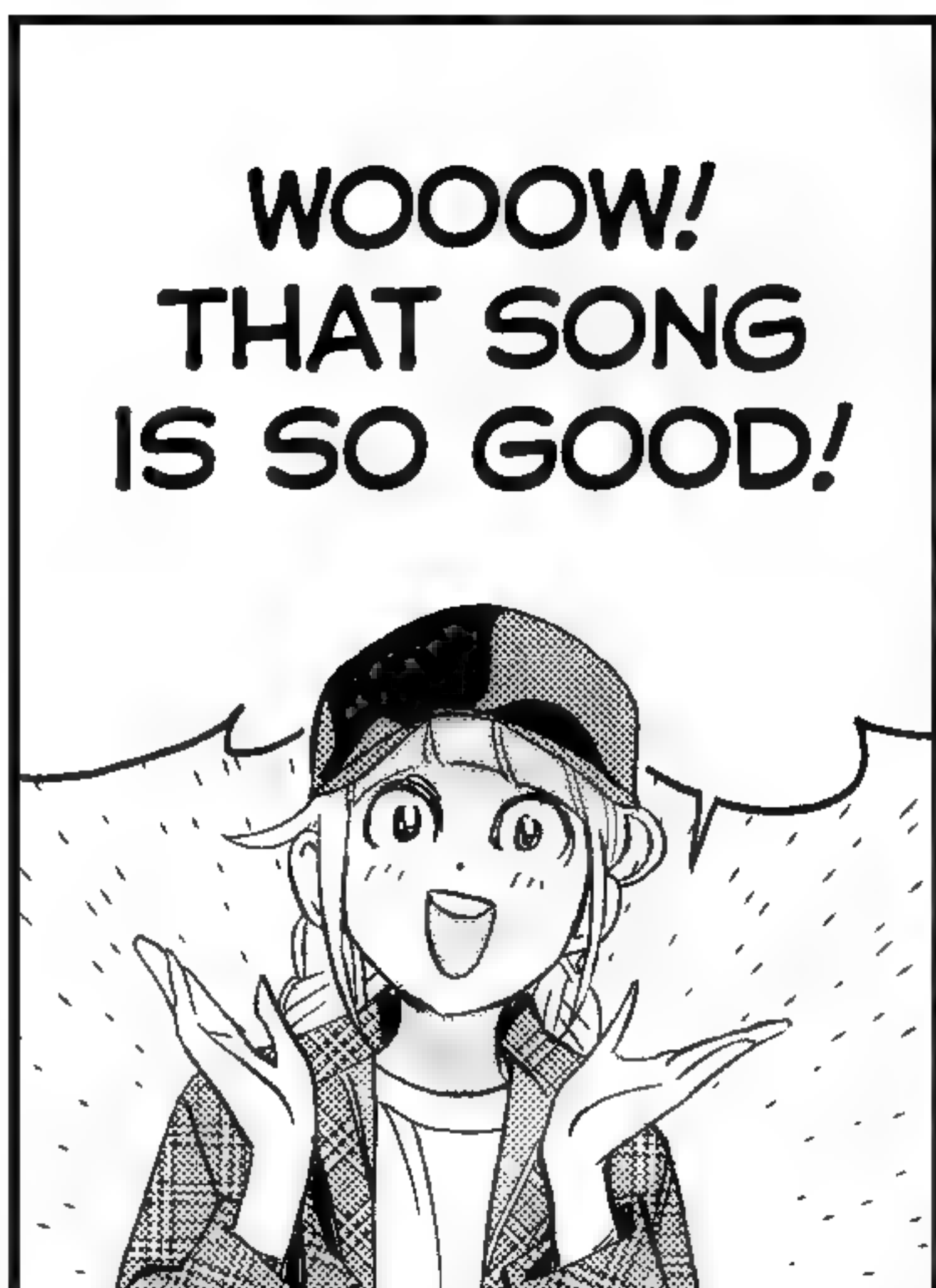
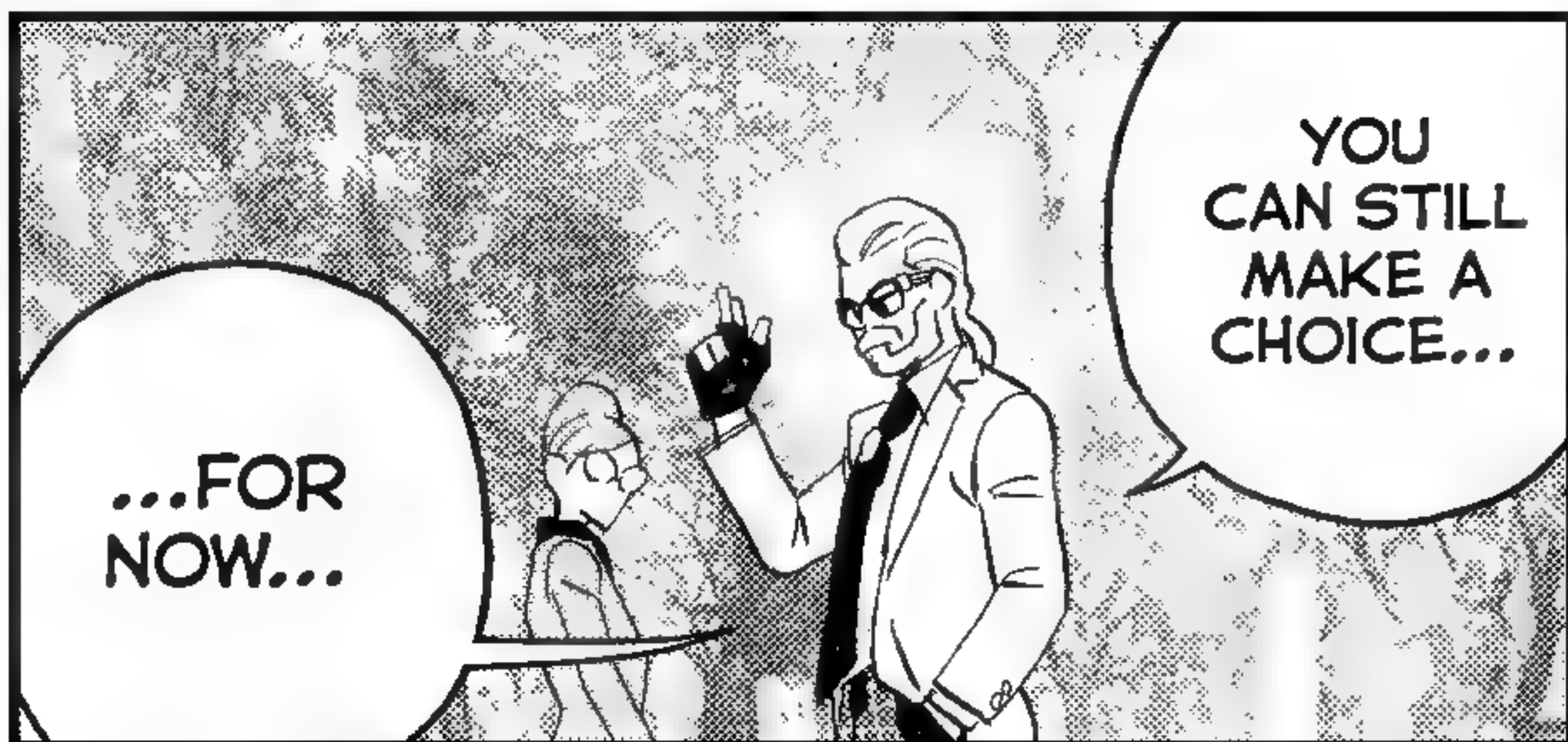
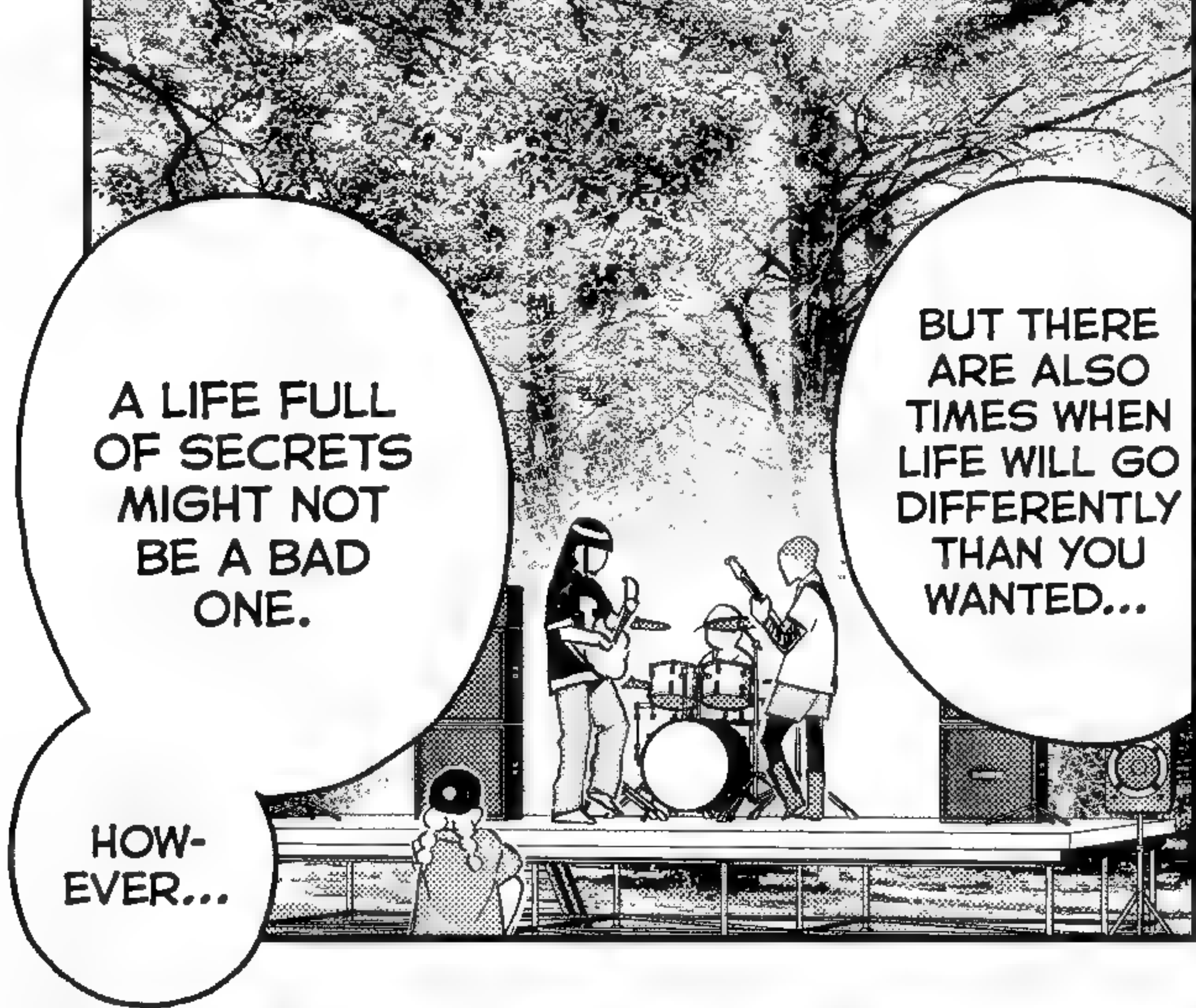














IT'S
EAST-SOUTH'S
MASTERPIECE!

I KNOW,
RIGHT?
IT'S CALLED
THE WIND'S
ROCK!



HUH? BUT
IT WAS SO
GOOD!

WE CAN'T NAIL
THAT GROOVE
RIGHT BEFORE
THE CHORUS...

EAST-
SOUTH'S
MUSIC IS
HARD...



CALM
DOWN,
NANAMI!

RIGHT? THEY
MAKE YOU FEEL LIKE
YOU'RE CHARGING FULL
FORCE, WITH AN OUT-
STANDING GROOVE. THE
COMPOSITION ITSELF IS
SO IMPRESSIVE, BUT IT'S
LIKE THE WORLD WASN'T
READY FOR THEIR GENIUS.
THEY DIDN'T SELL VERY
WELL AT THE TIME...



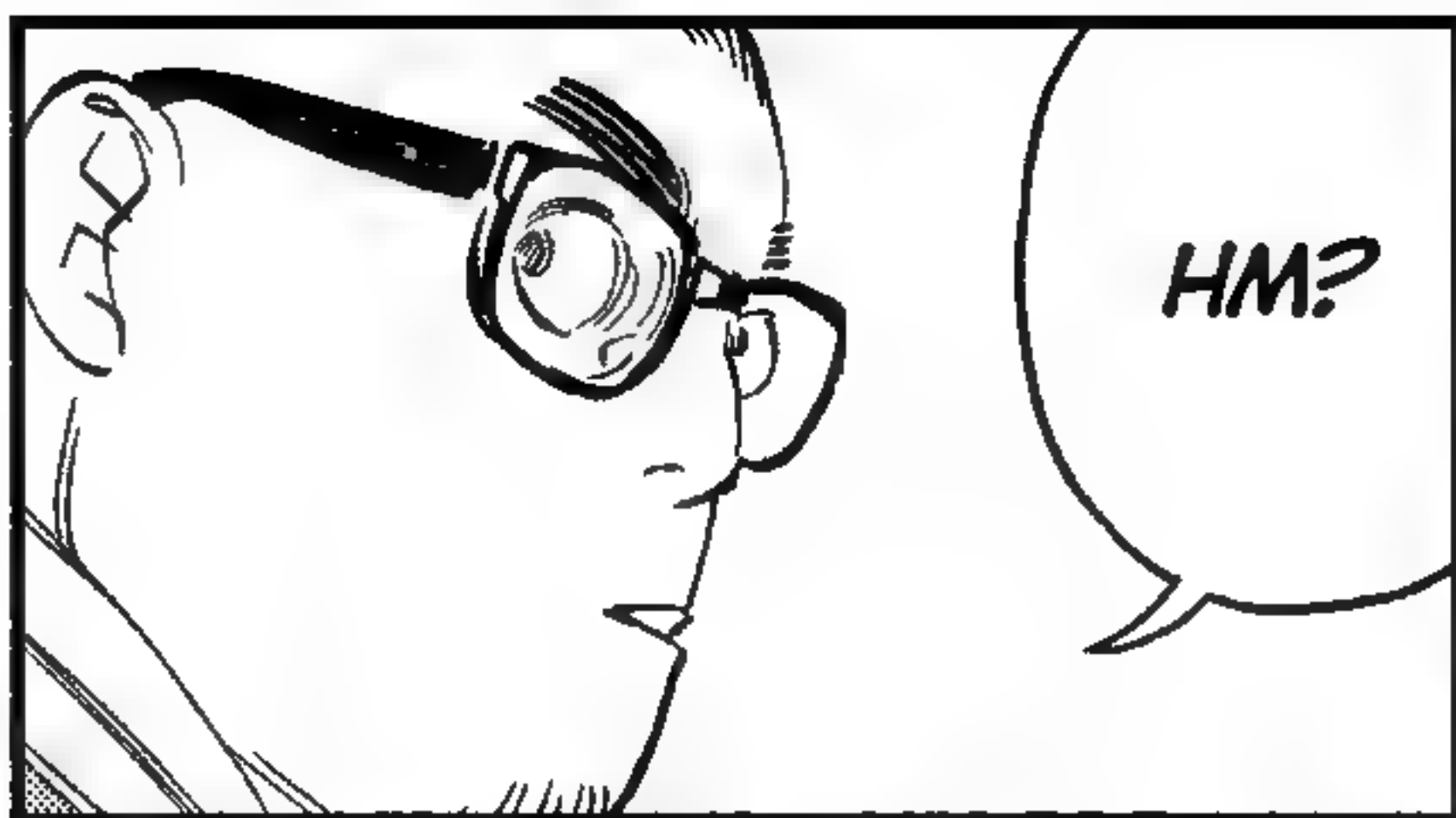
ACTUALLY,
I'LL JUST
SEND YOU
THE LINK TO
THEIR SONG.
GIVE IT A
LISTEN.

UMM...
HOW
SHOULD
I SAY
THIS...



DAMN,
THEIR
PERFOR-
MANCE
IS TOP-
NOTCH!

HUH...
OKAY, I
GET IT...



HM?



LET'S GO!

I DON'T REALLY GET WHAT'S GOING ON, BUT THIS HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH US ANYMORE.



HIGASHI-YAMA?

KRCH

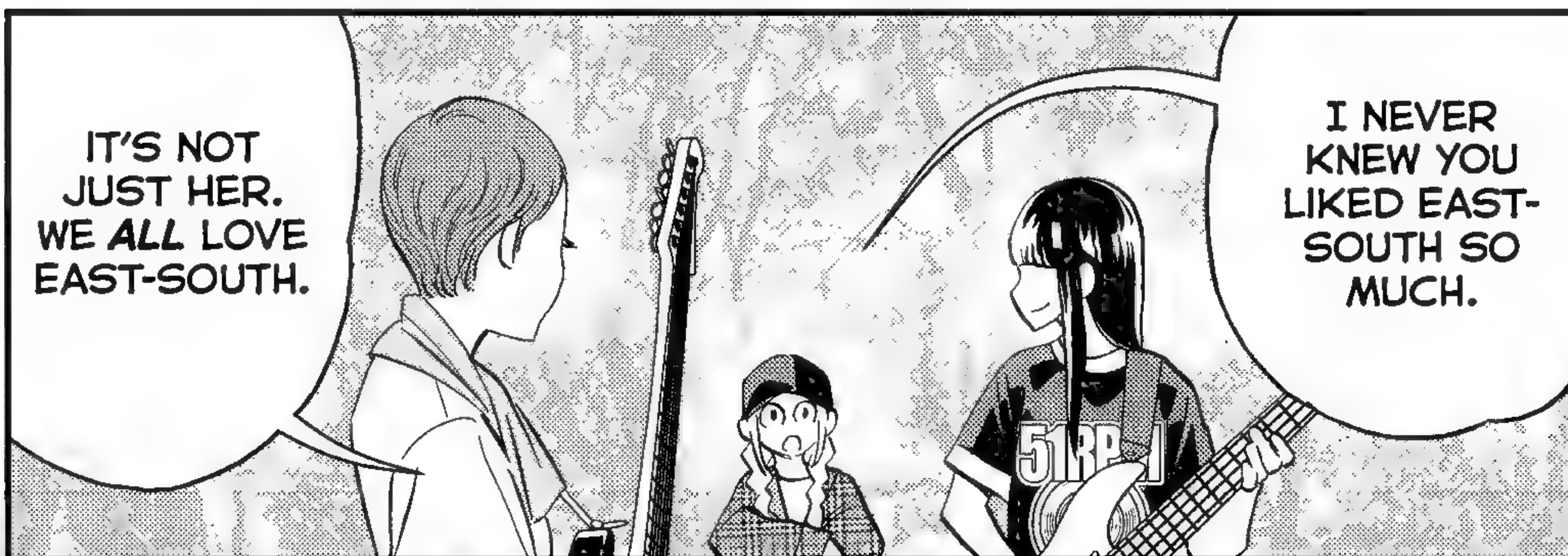
〒

〒

KRCH

〒

KRCH



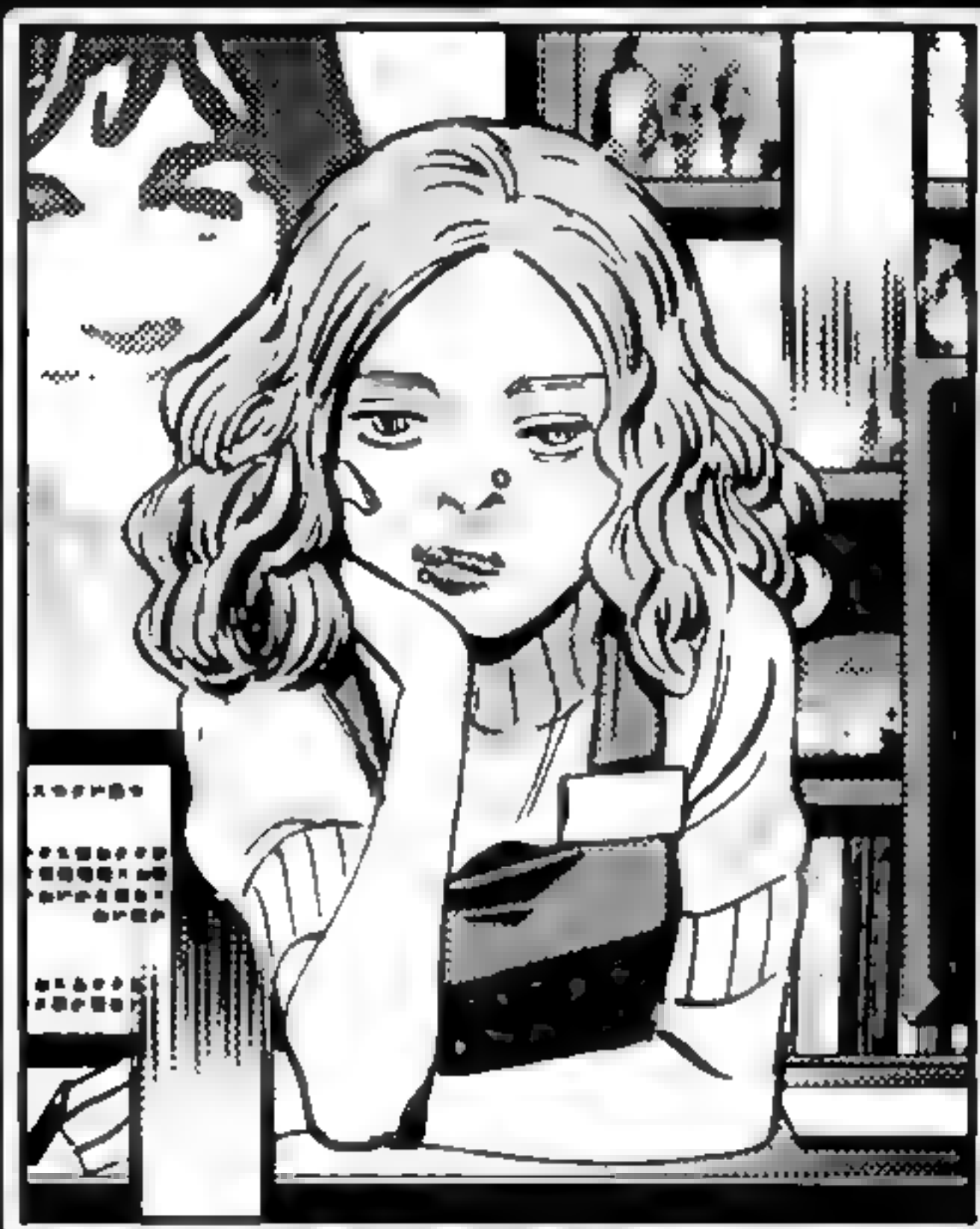
IT'S NOT JUST HER. WE ALL LOVE EAST-SOUTH.

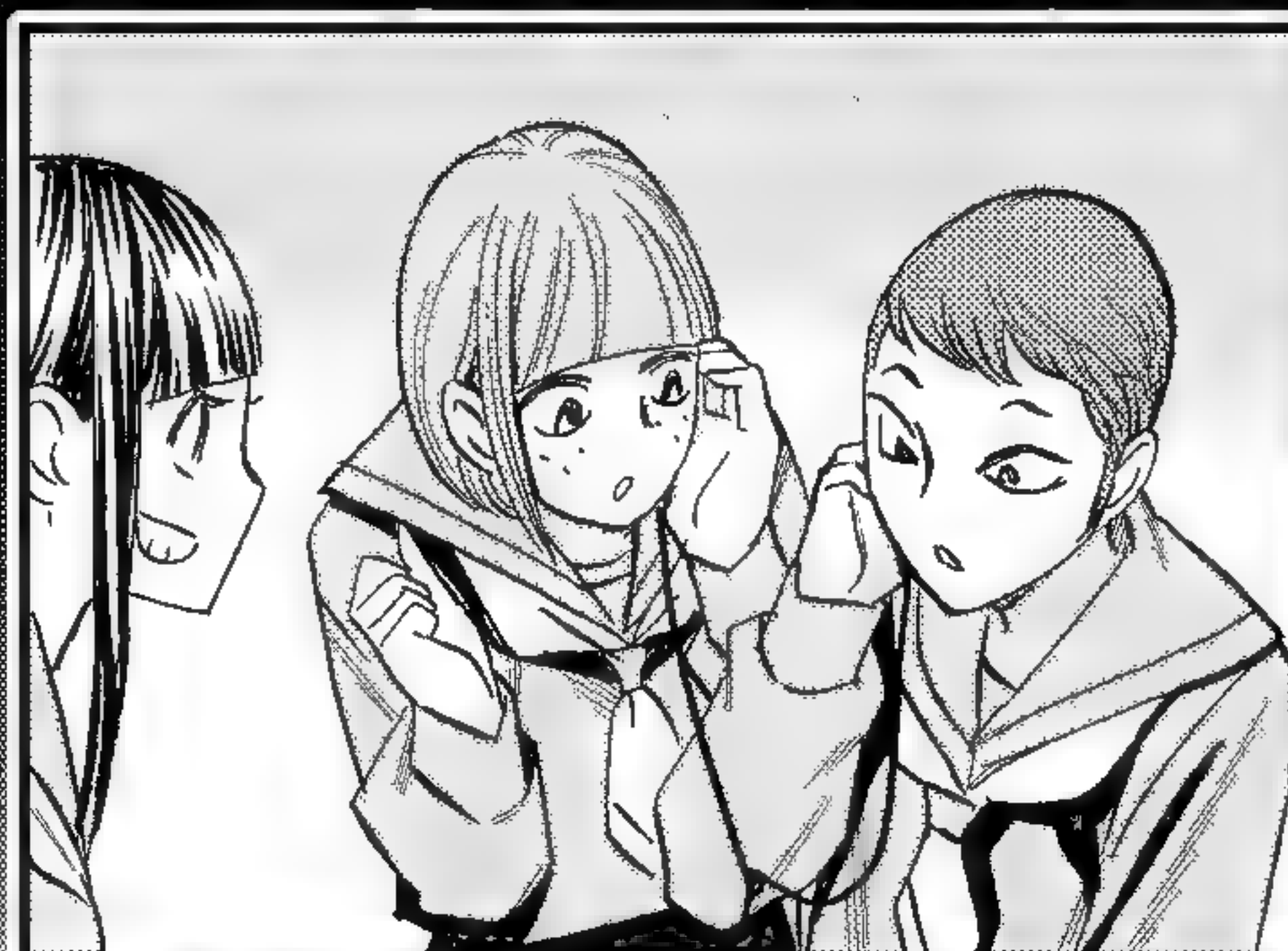
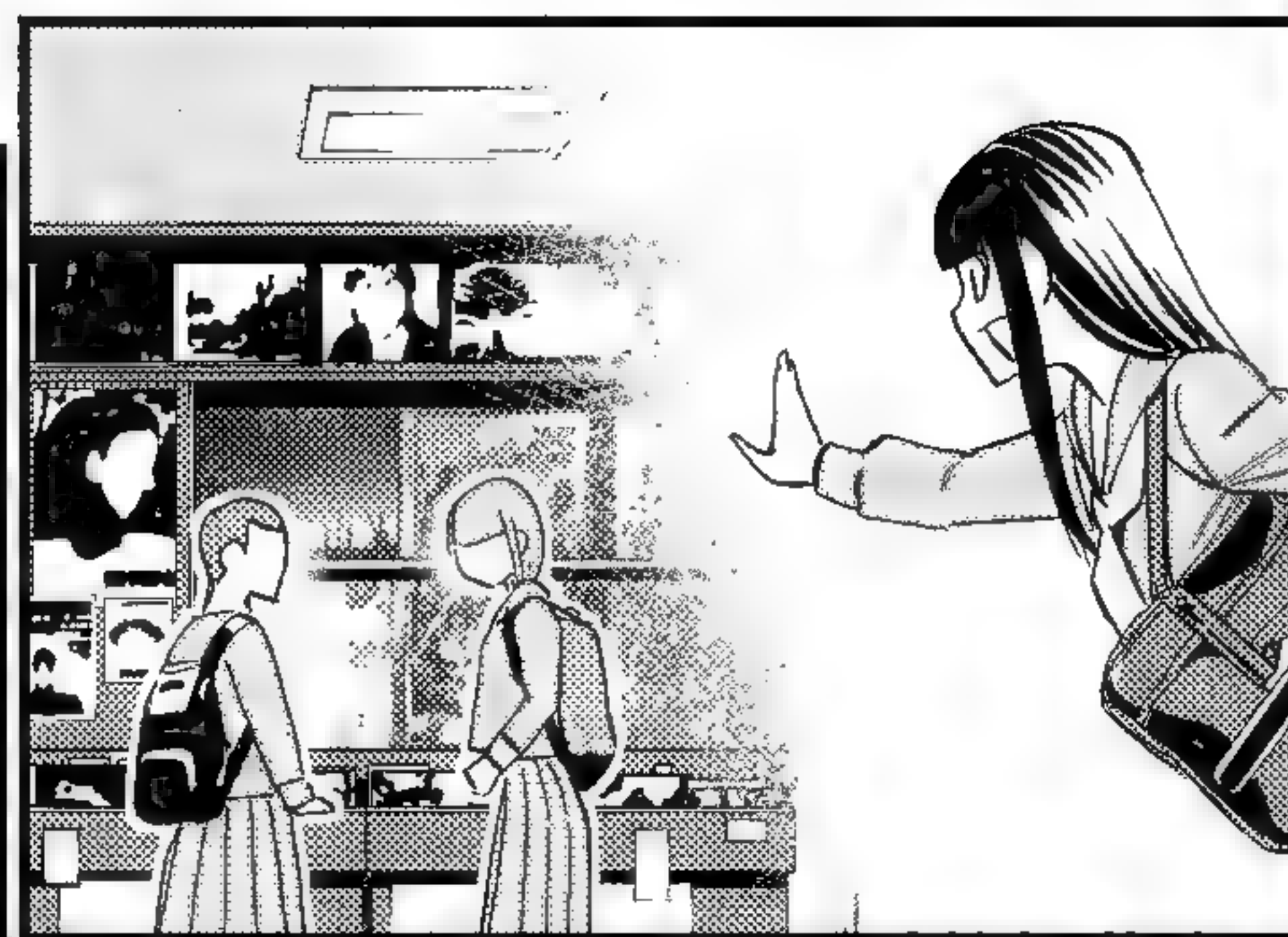
I NEVER KNEW YOU LIKED EAST-SOUTH SO MUCH.

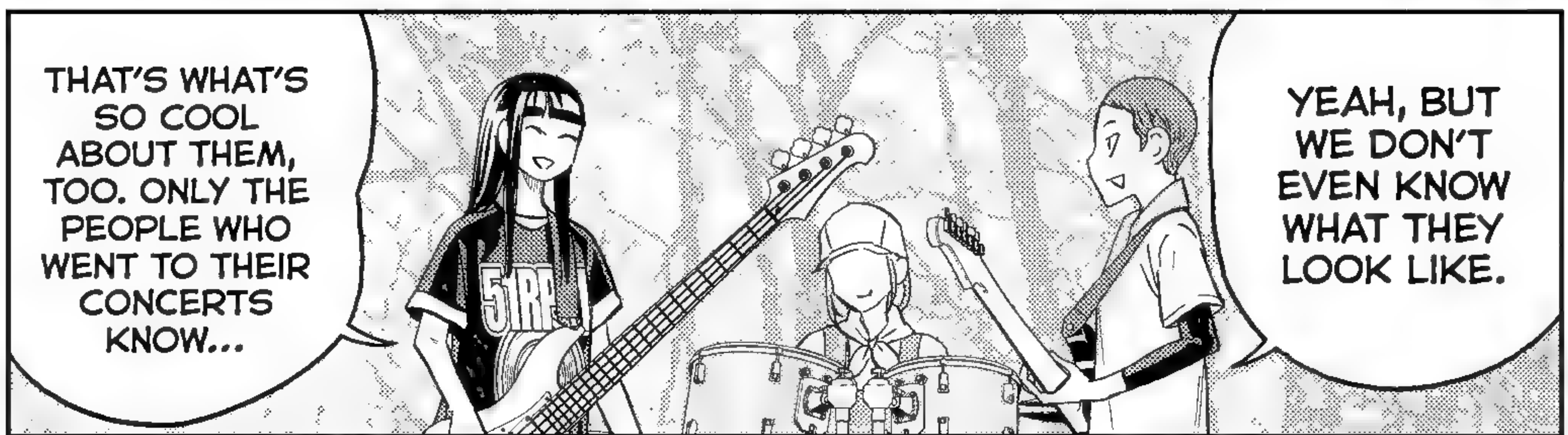


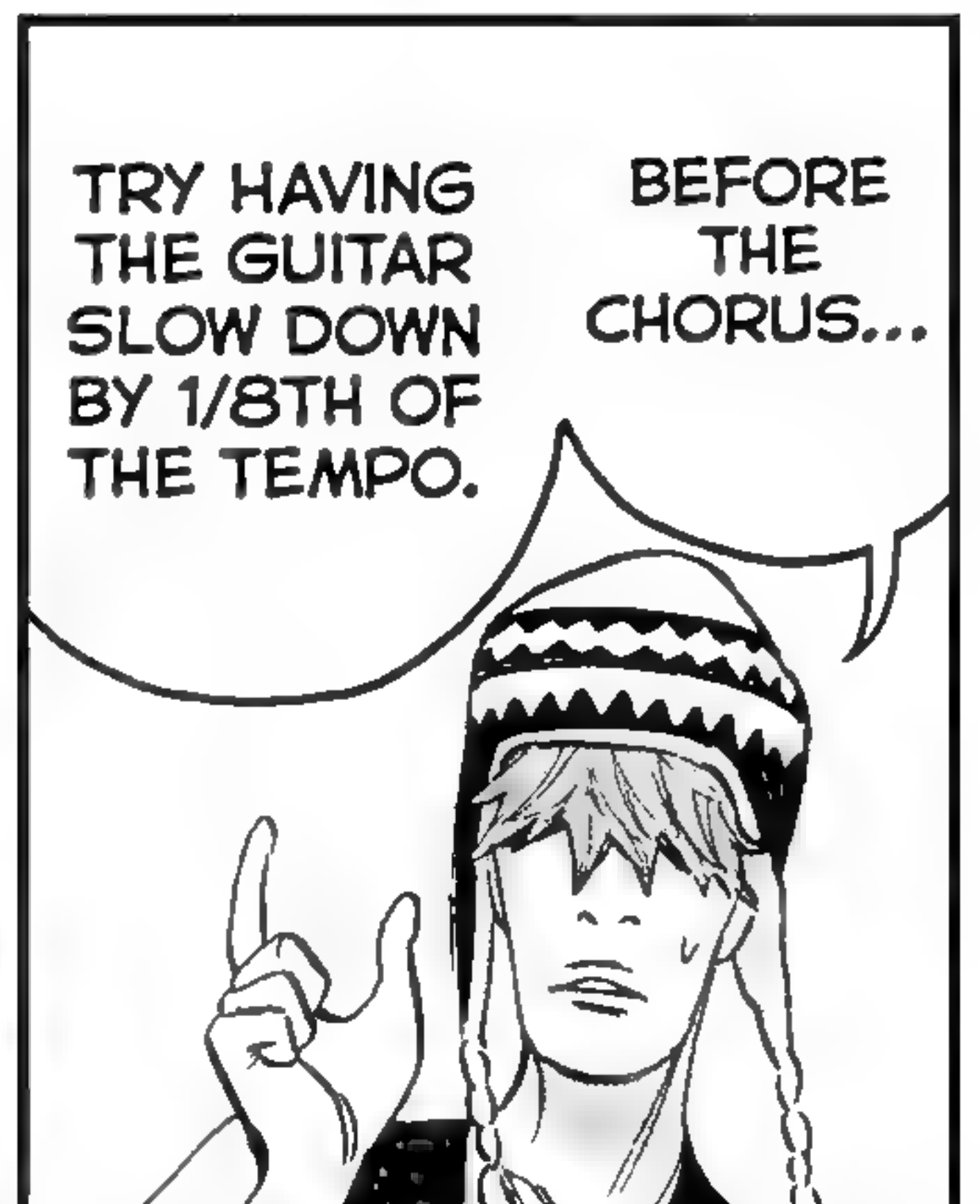
WHEN WE WERE STILL IN OUR FIRST YEAR OF HIGH SCHOOL, AT THE RECORD SHOP BACK AT OUR HOME TOWN...

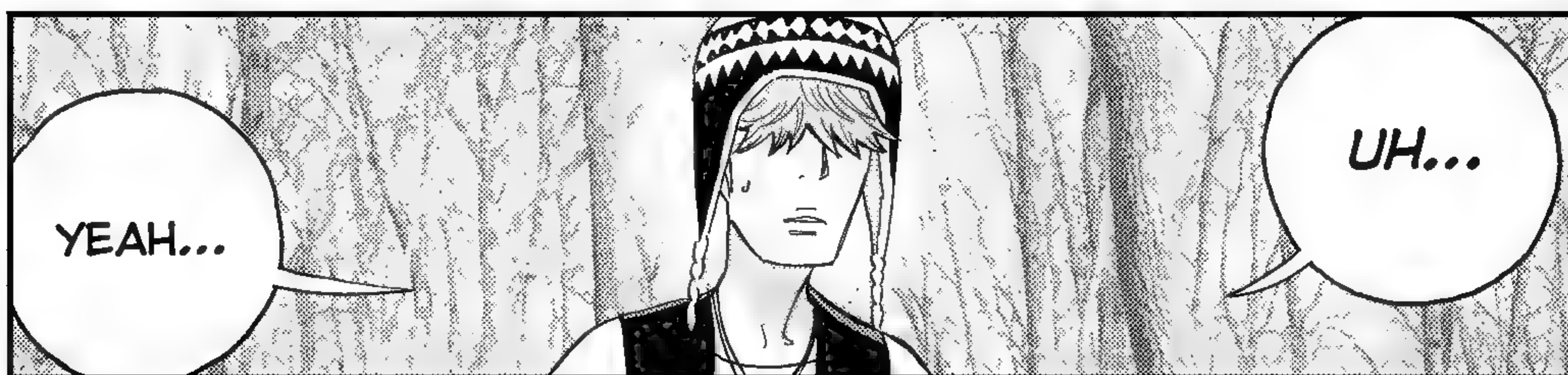
YEAH!











1971
Boy
Knows
Nothing!

THAT
SONG IS SO
HARD, THOUGH!
I'VE GOT MAD
RESPECT
FOR YOU!

YOU CAN
COPY EAST-
SOUTH'S *THE
WIND'S ROCK*
PERFECTLY!

CHAPTER 87 A Session with the Wind and Eiko

I'M SO
SORRY! I NEED
TO BRUSH UP
ON RECENT
BANDS! CAN
YOU TELL ME
YOUR NAME?!

OH!
ARE YOU
PLAYING
AT THE
FESTIVAL?!

PLEASE,
LET ME
CALL YOU
TEACHER!

I...

UHH...

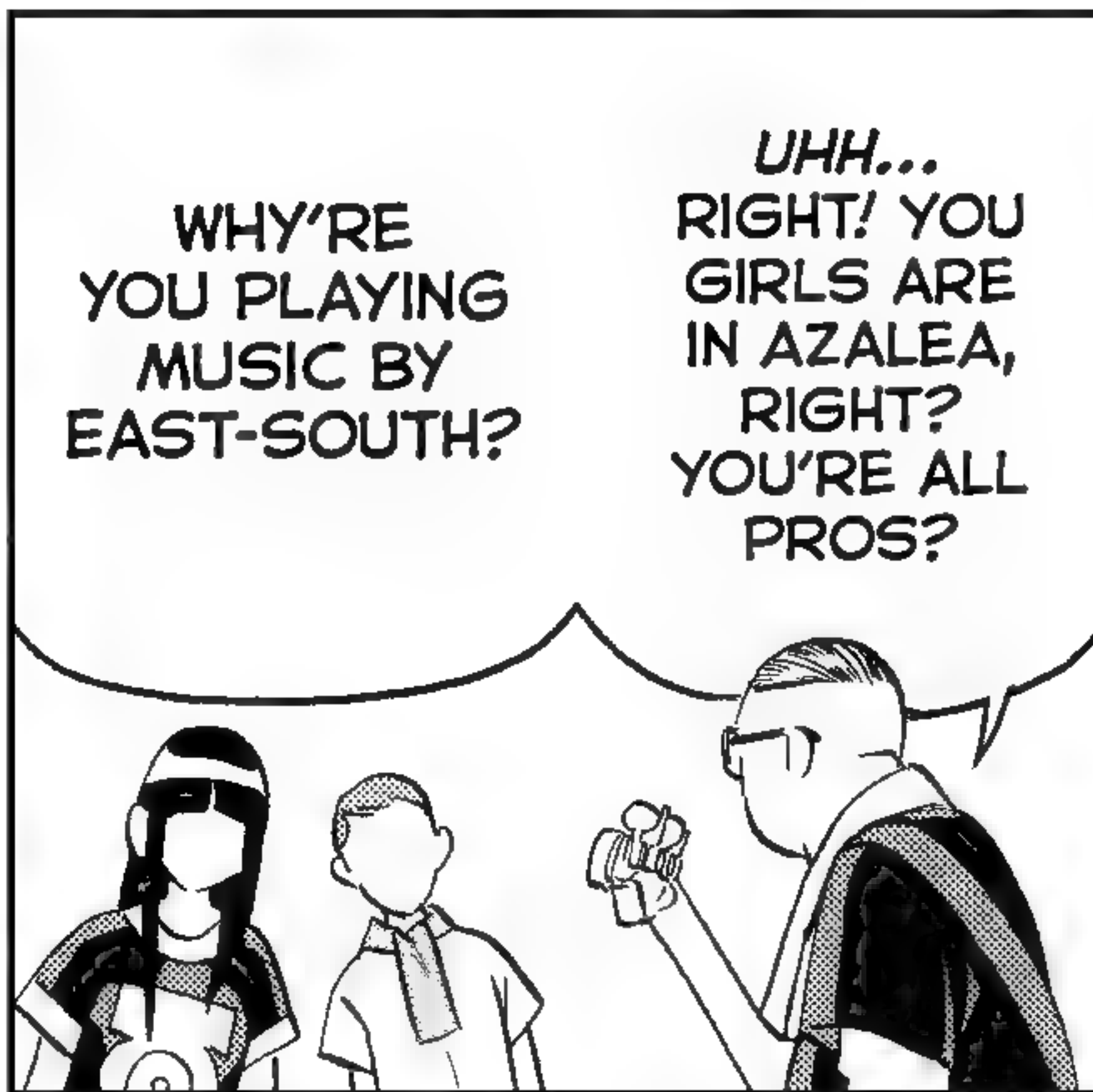
キラ SPARKLE
キラ SPARKLE

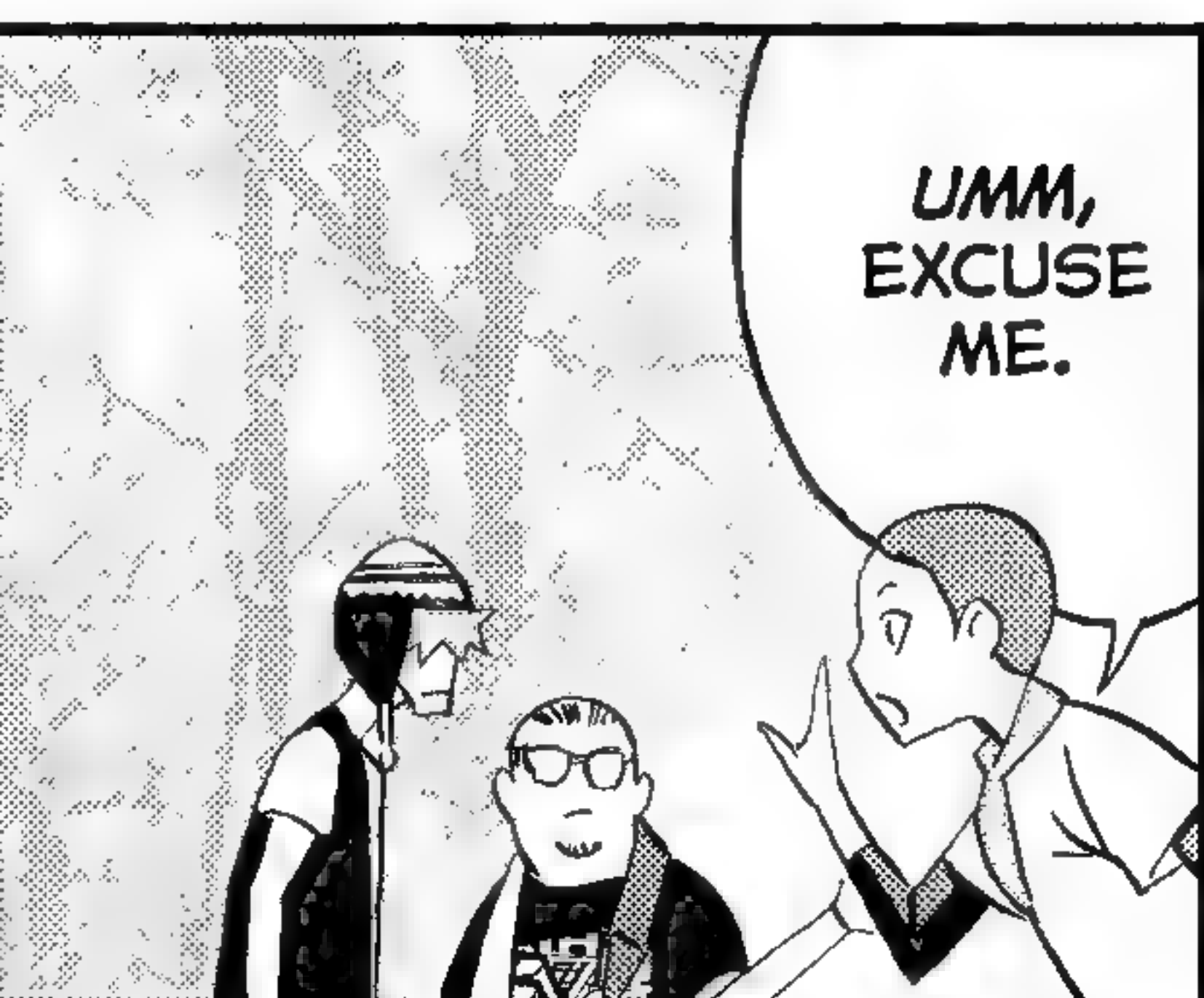
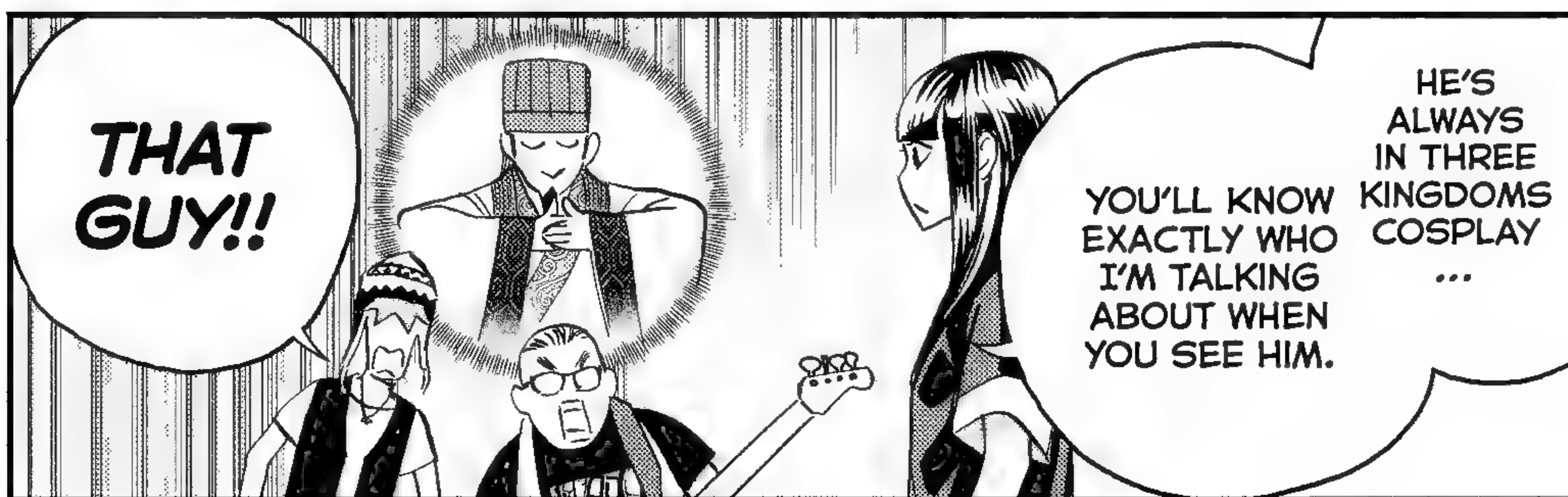
ビーン JOLT

HUH?!

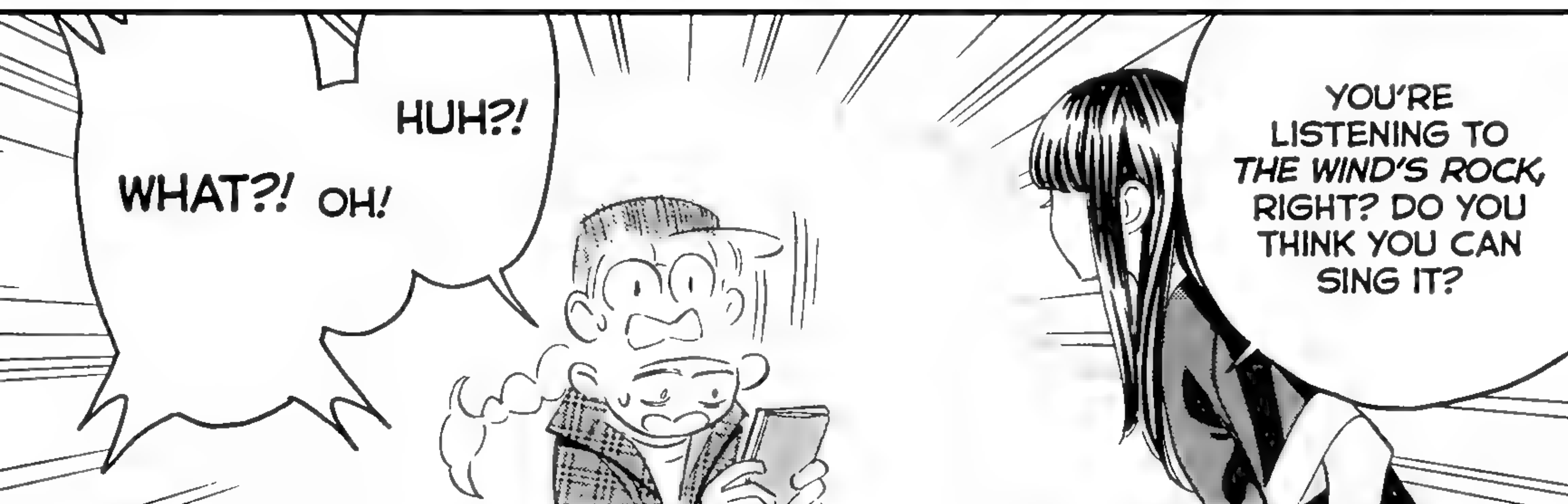
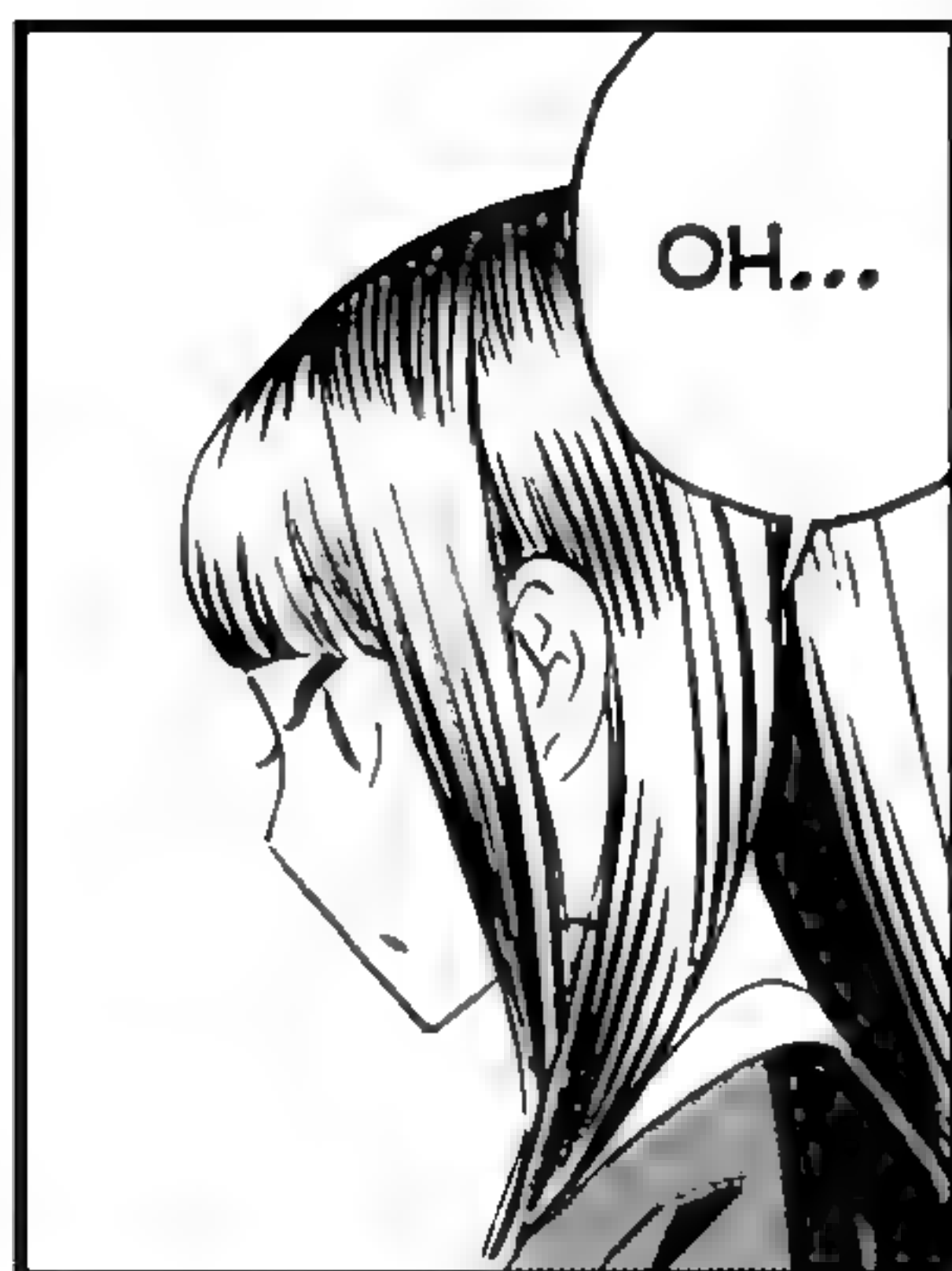
OH! AND
THAT GUY
CAN COPY
THE BASS
PERFECTLY,
TOO.

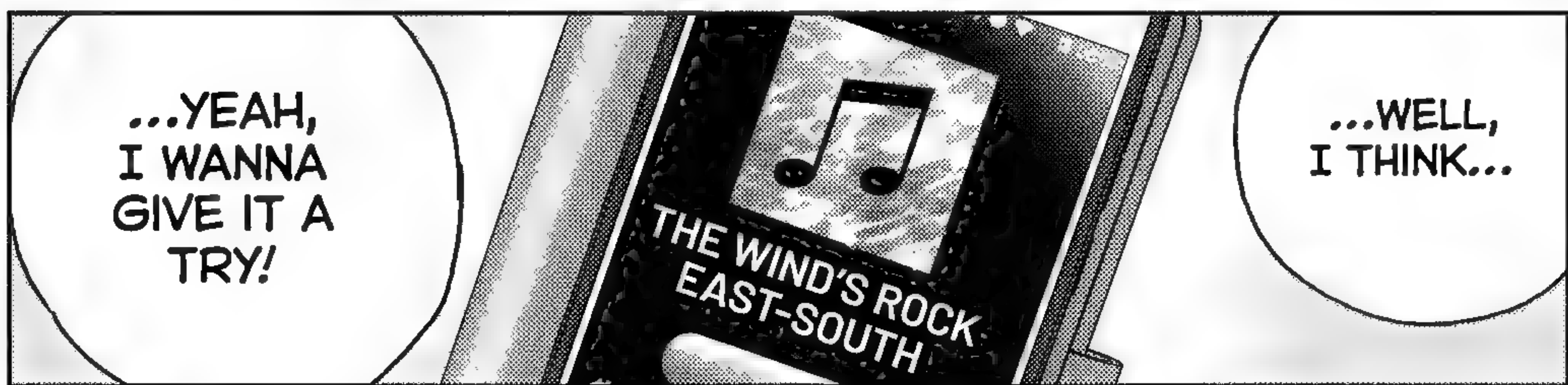
THAT
ASS-
HOLE...







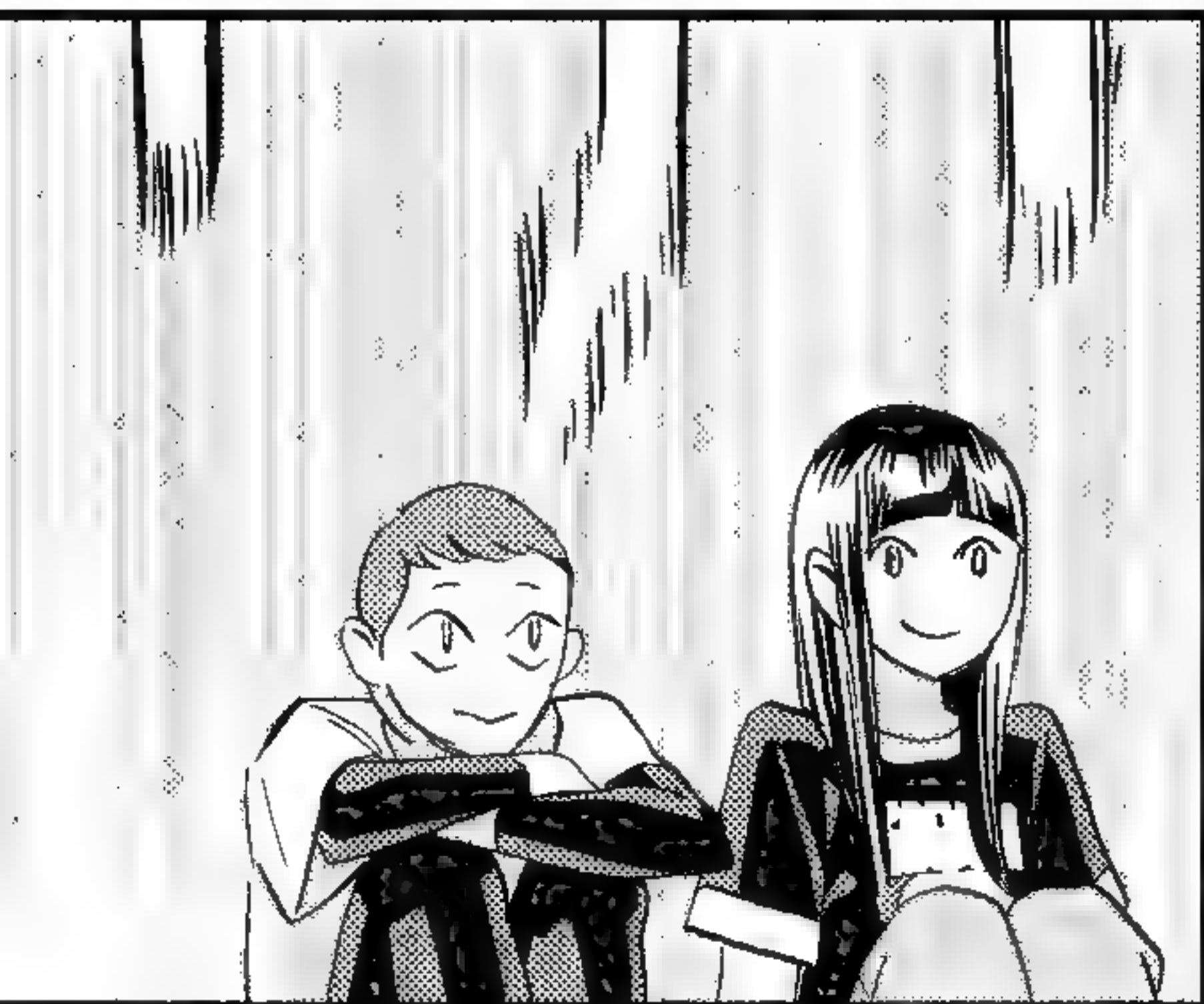
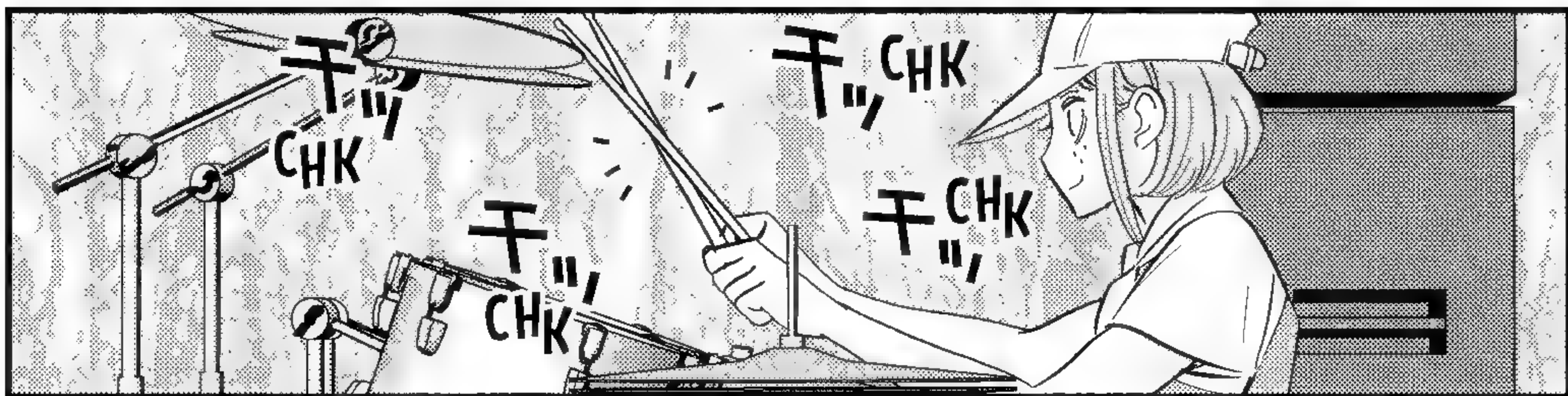




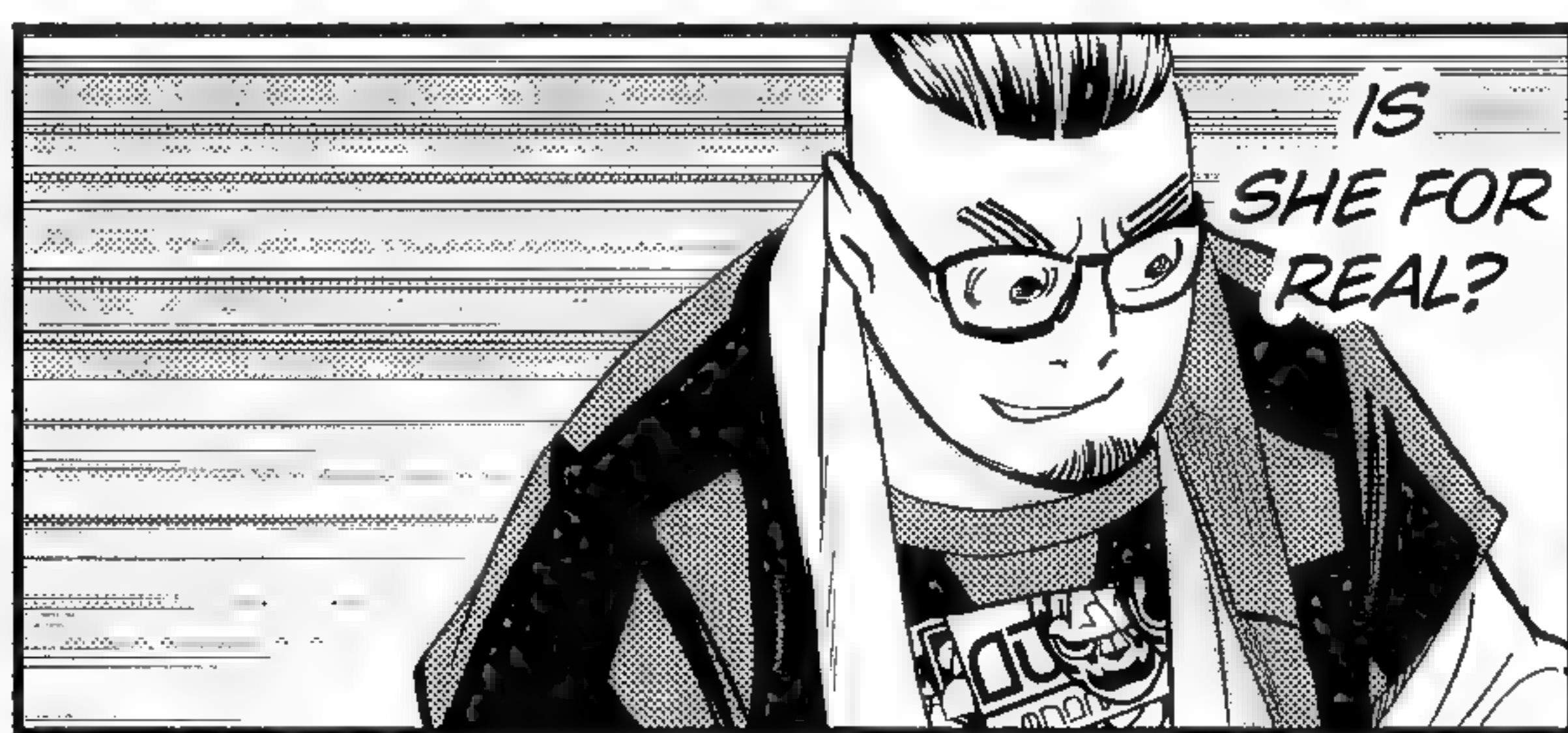
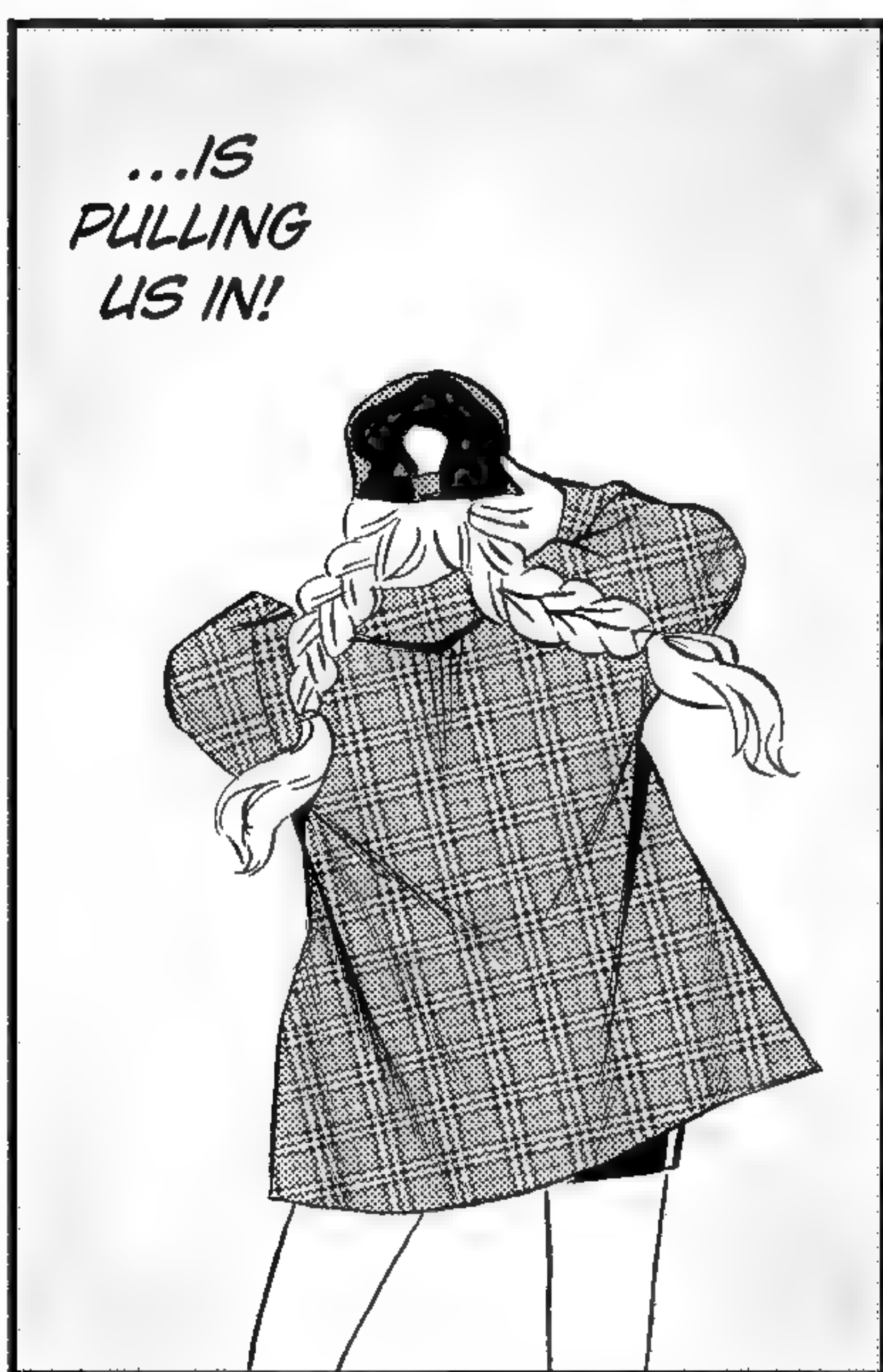
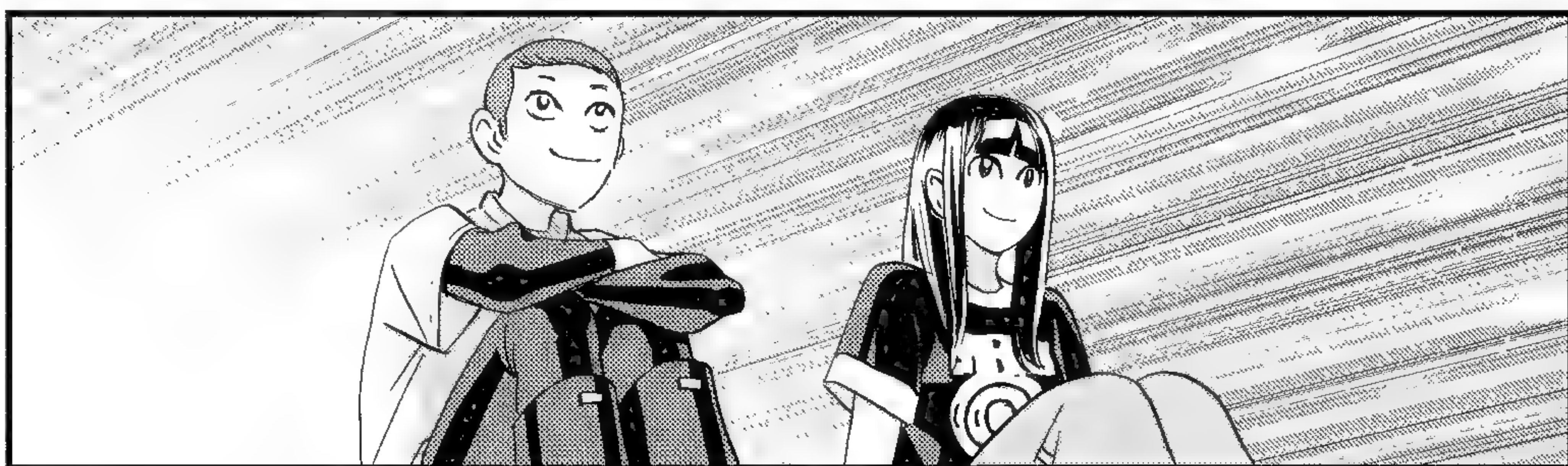
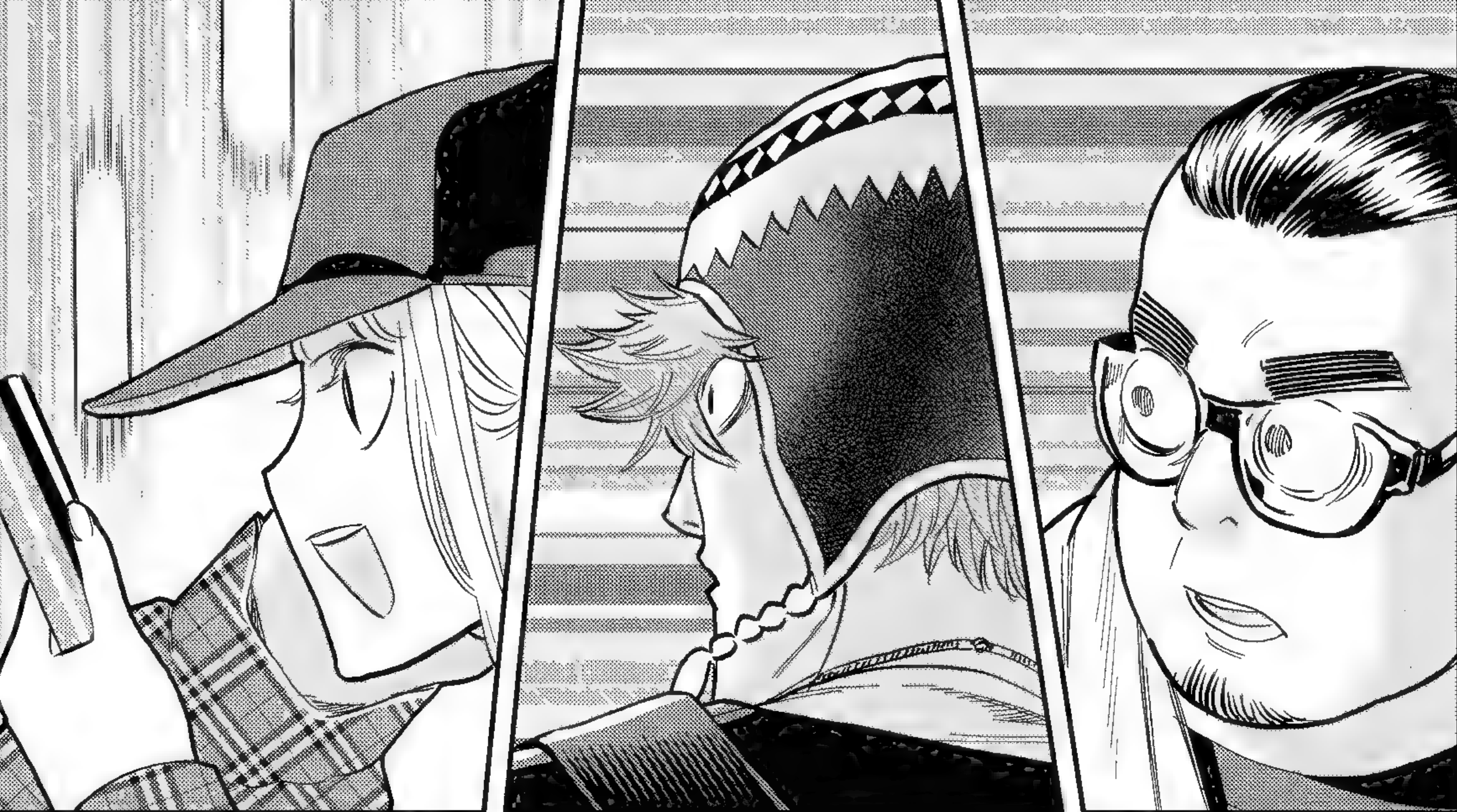
...I'M
SORRY IF I
MAKE ANY
MISTAKES.

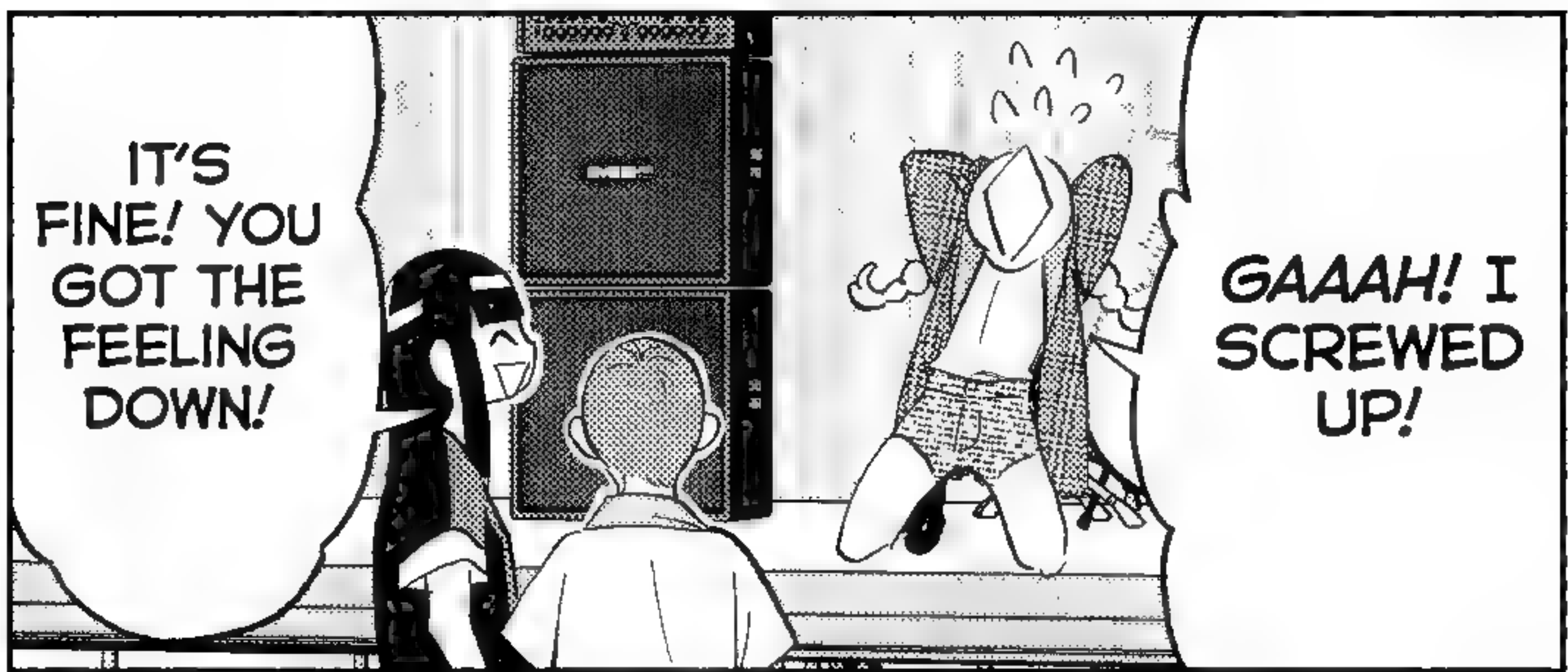
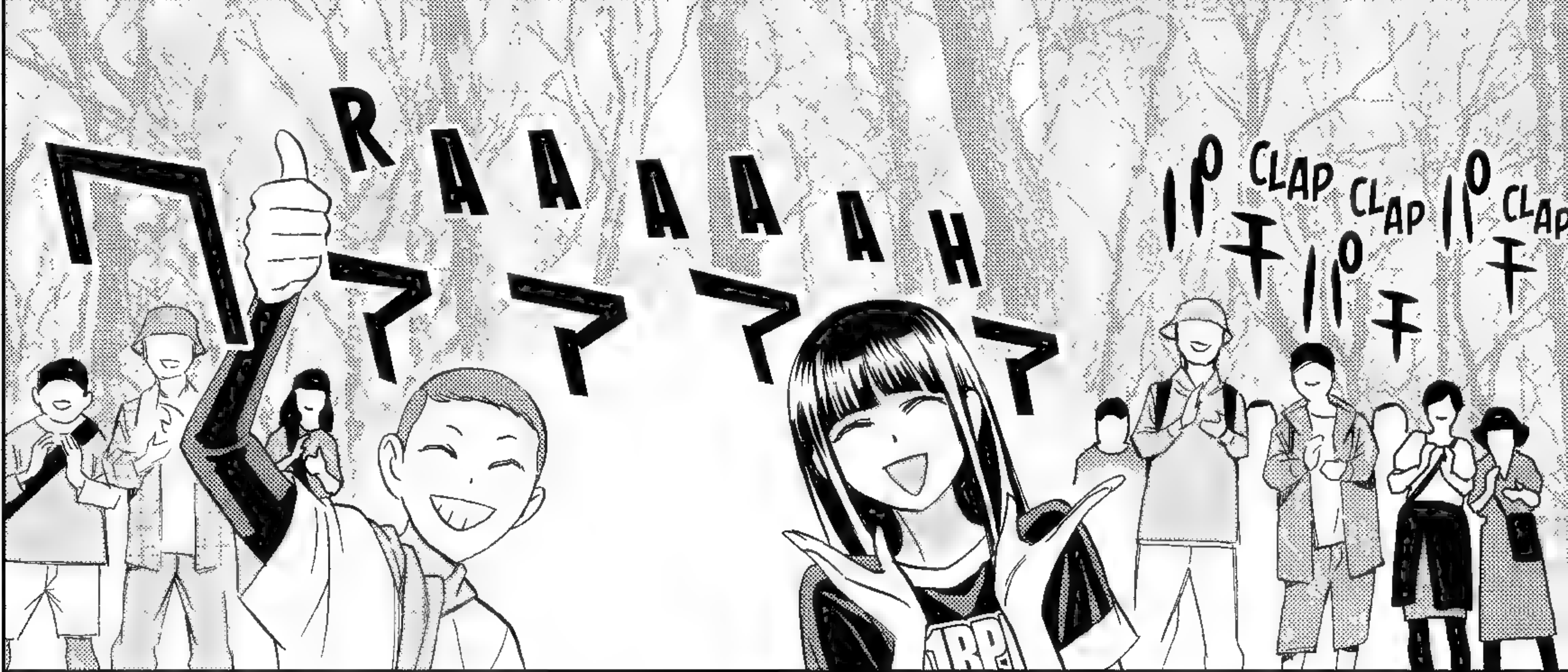


HA HA HA...
I STILL HAVE
TO LOOK AT
THE LYRICS,
SO...











I MEAN...
I WON THE 100K
LIKES EVENT...THEN
SPED PAST A BUNCH
OF PEOPLE...AND
NOW I'M THE LAST
TO SING ON THE
FIRST DAY!



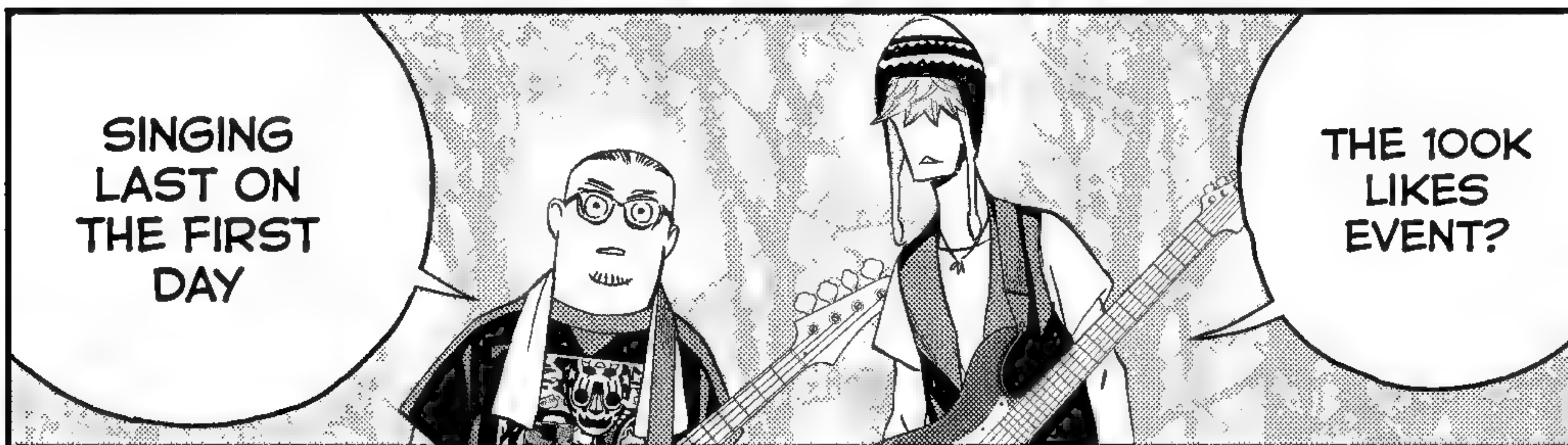
I MIGHT'VE
BEEN A BIT
NERVOUS...
SO THE WATER-
WORKS TURNED
ON ONCE I
RELAXED
A BIT.

YOU WERE
RIGHT,
NANAMIN.

SORRY.
I'M FINE!

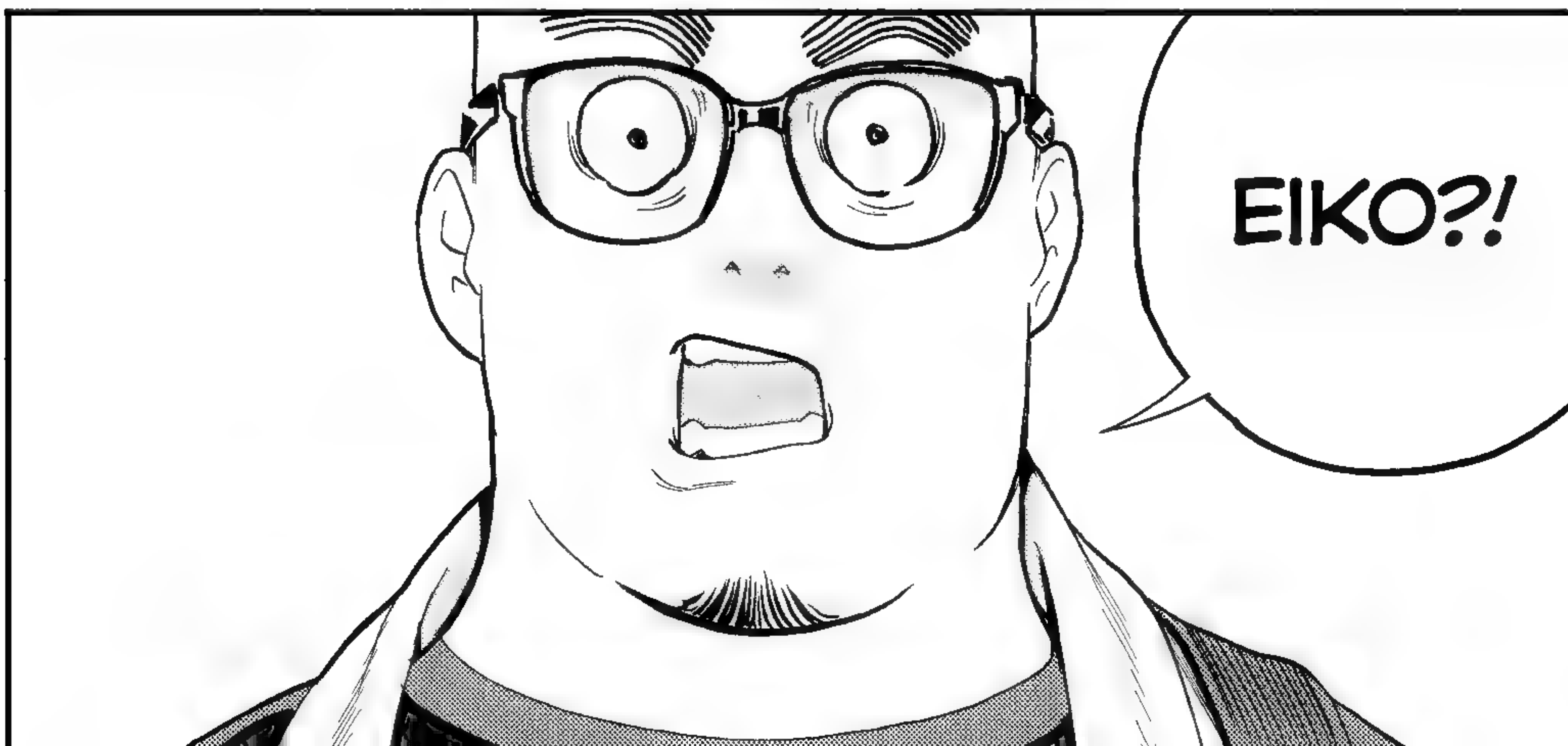


AND IF NO ONE
ACTUALLY COMES TO
WATCH, OR IF THEY
DON'T GET HYPED...
WELL, I'D FEEL
TERRIBLE FOR
THE GUESTS,
YOU KNOW?

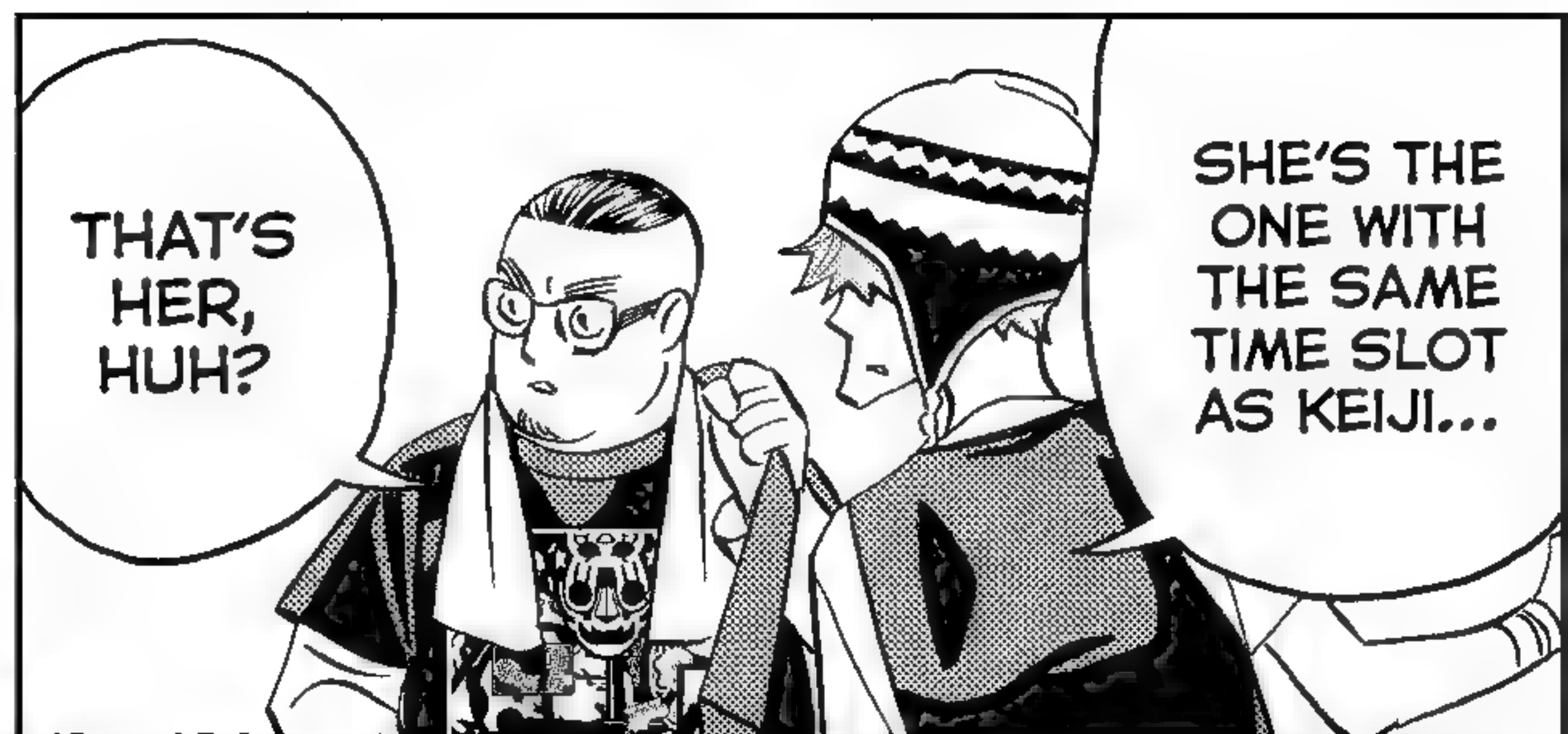


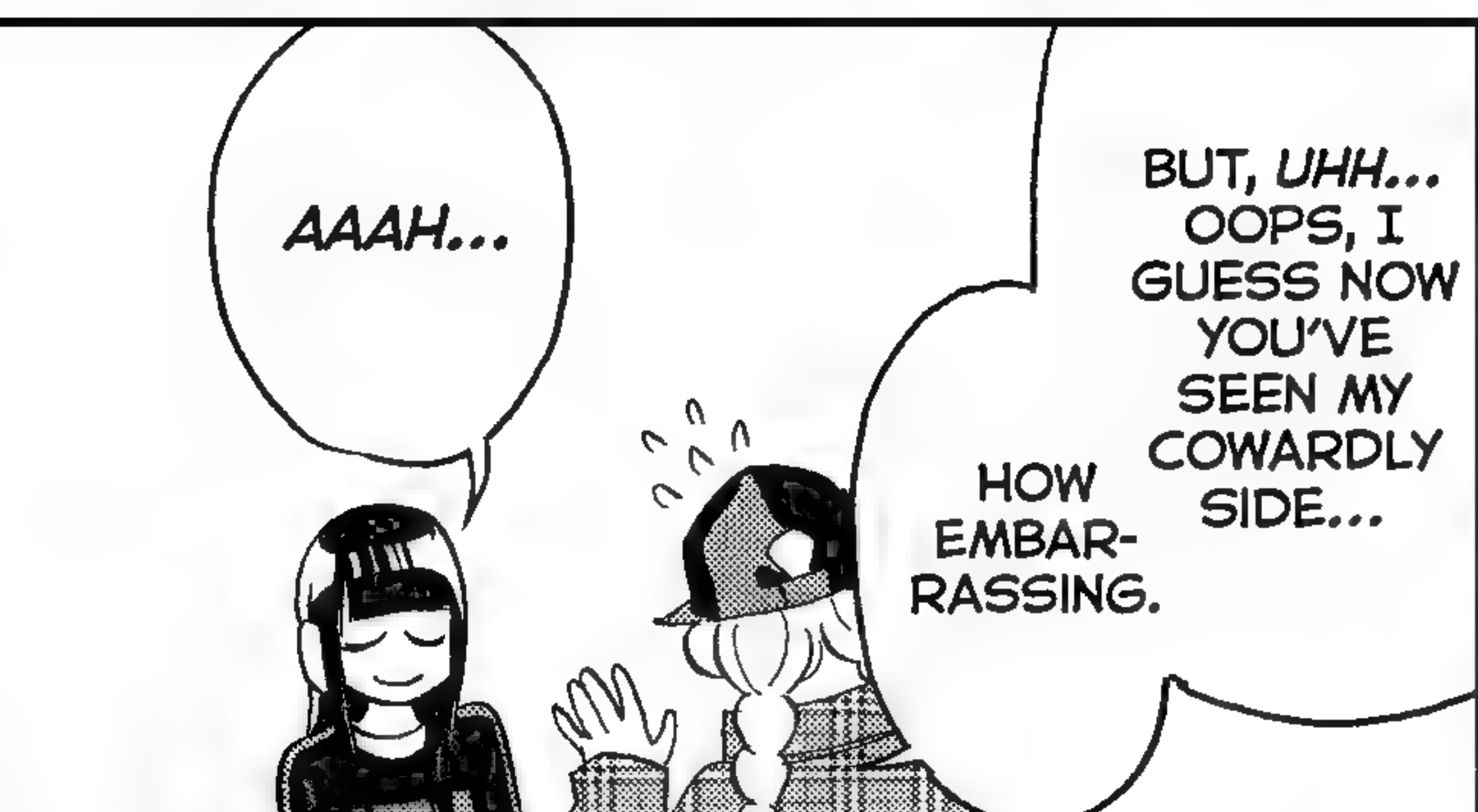
SINGING
LAST ON
THE FIRST
DAY

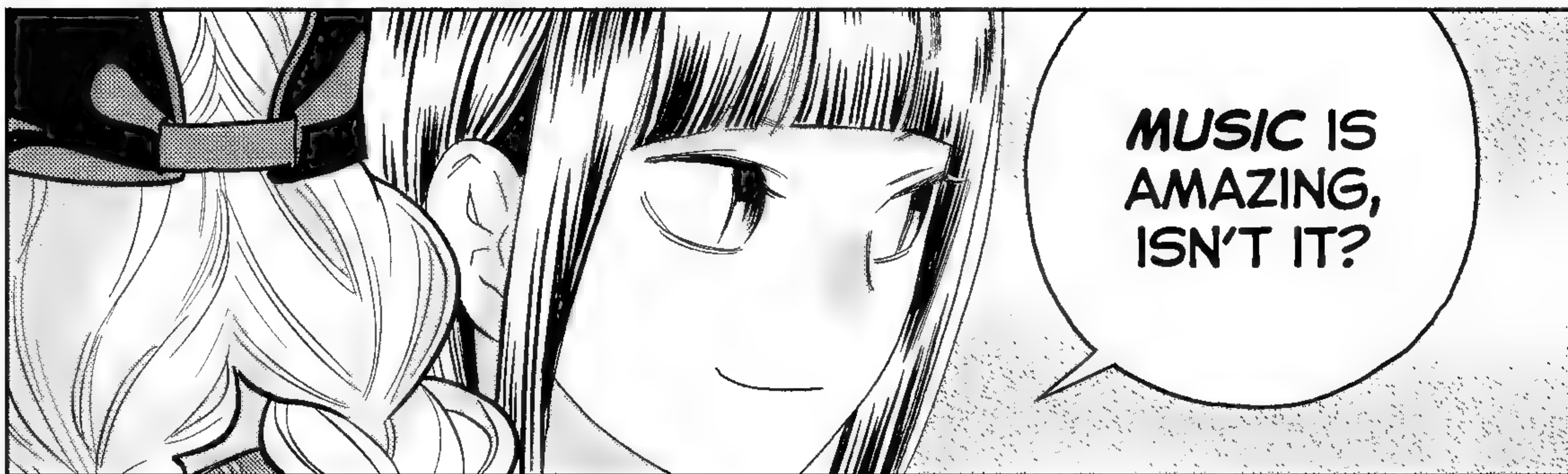
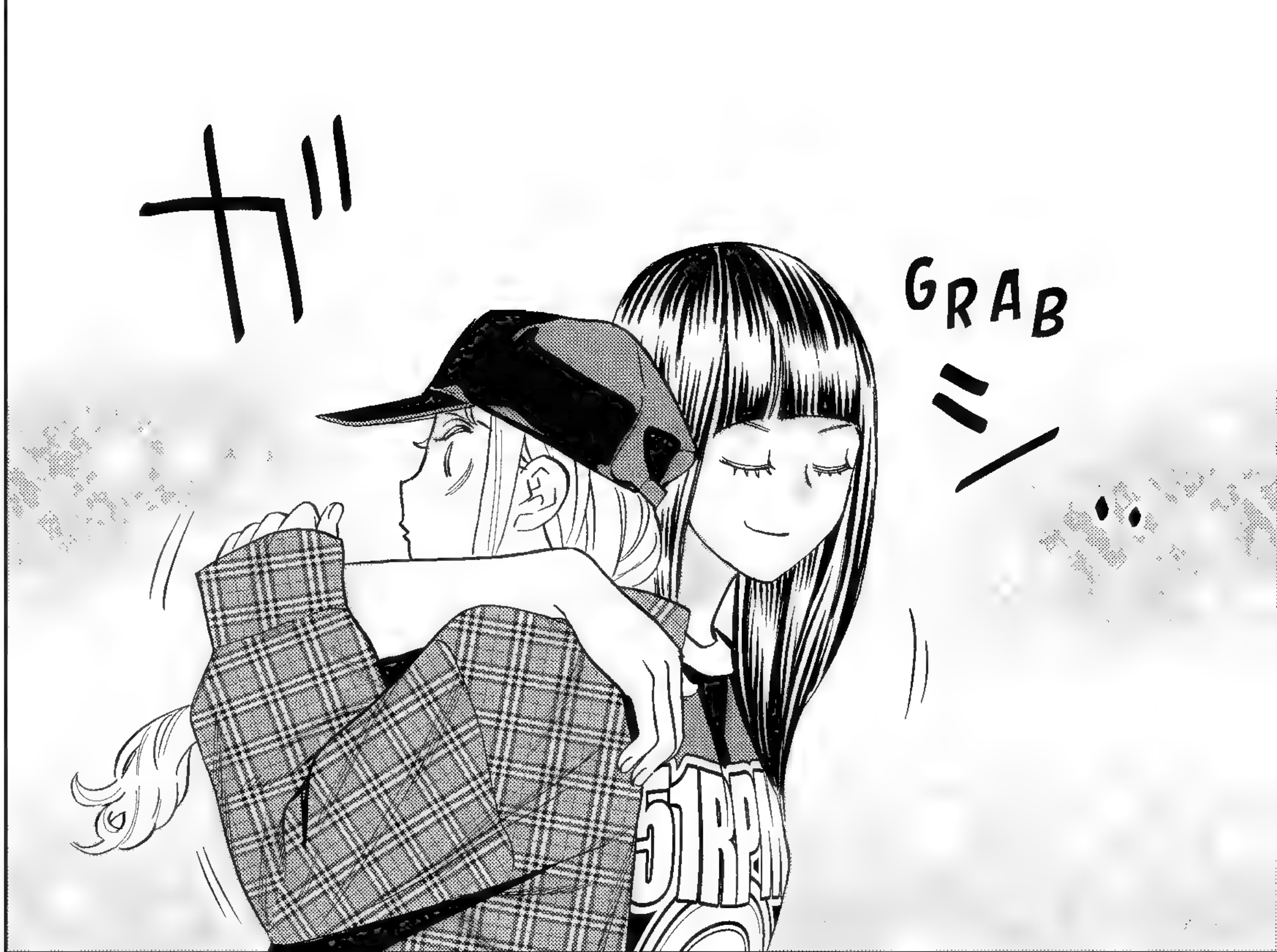
THE 100K
LIKES
EVENT?

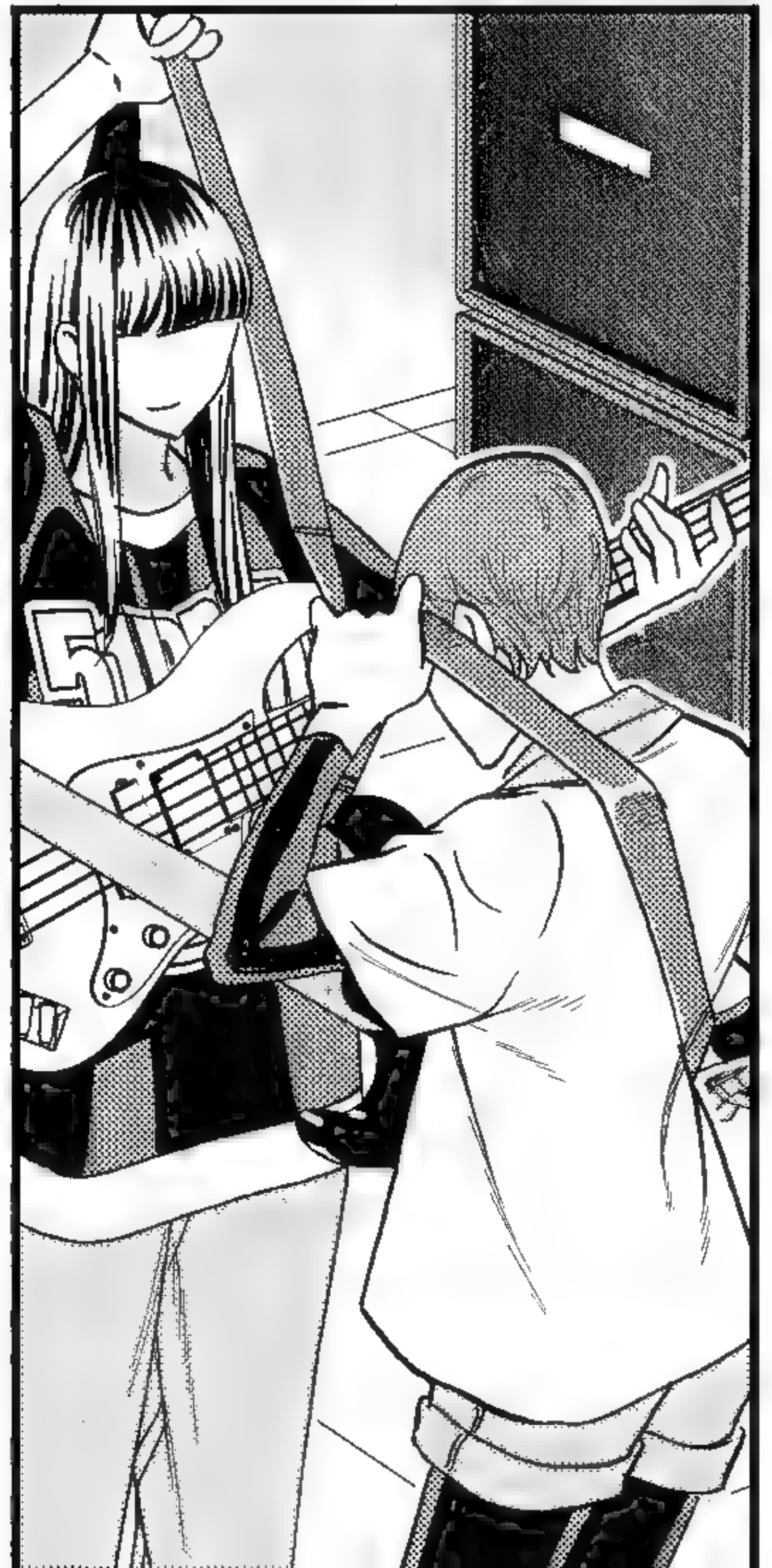
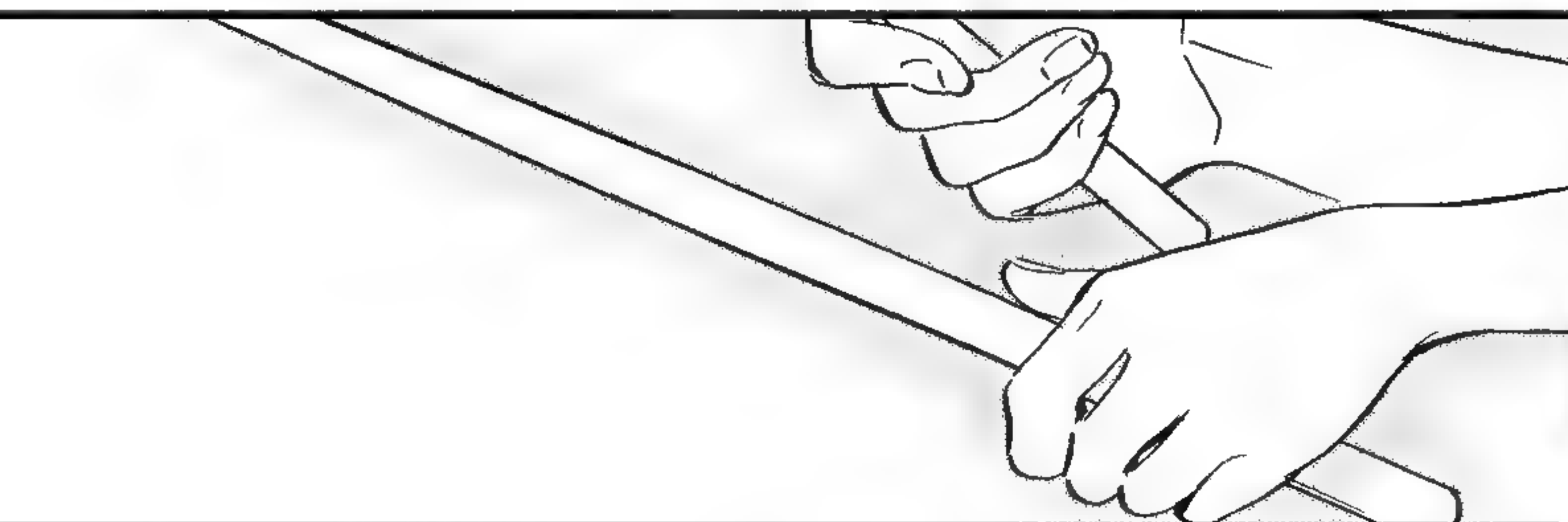
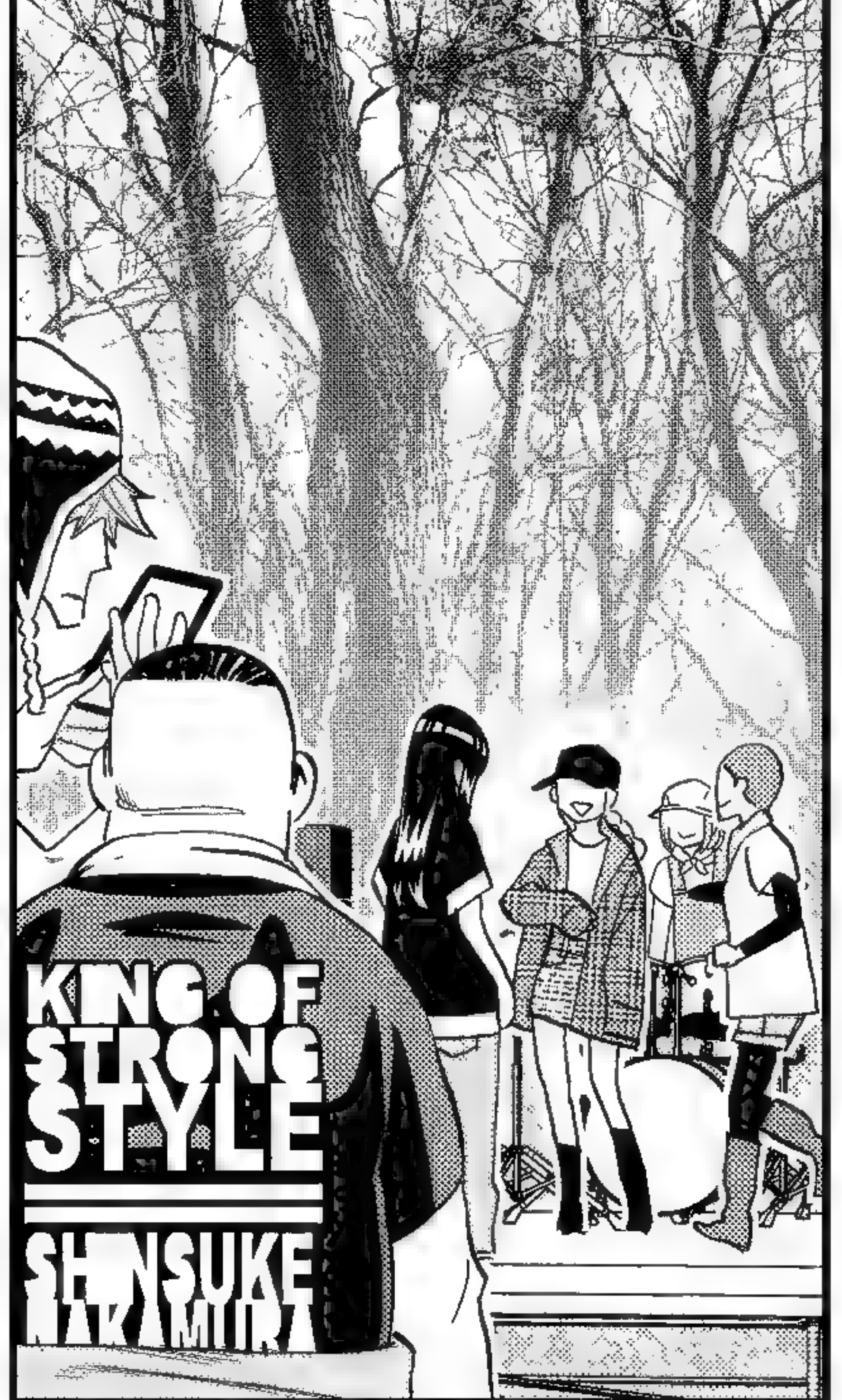


EIKO?!



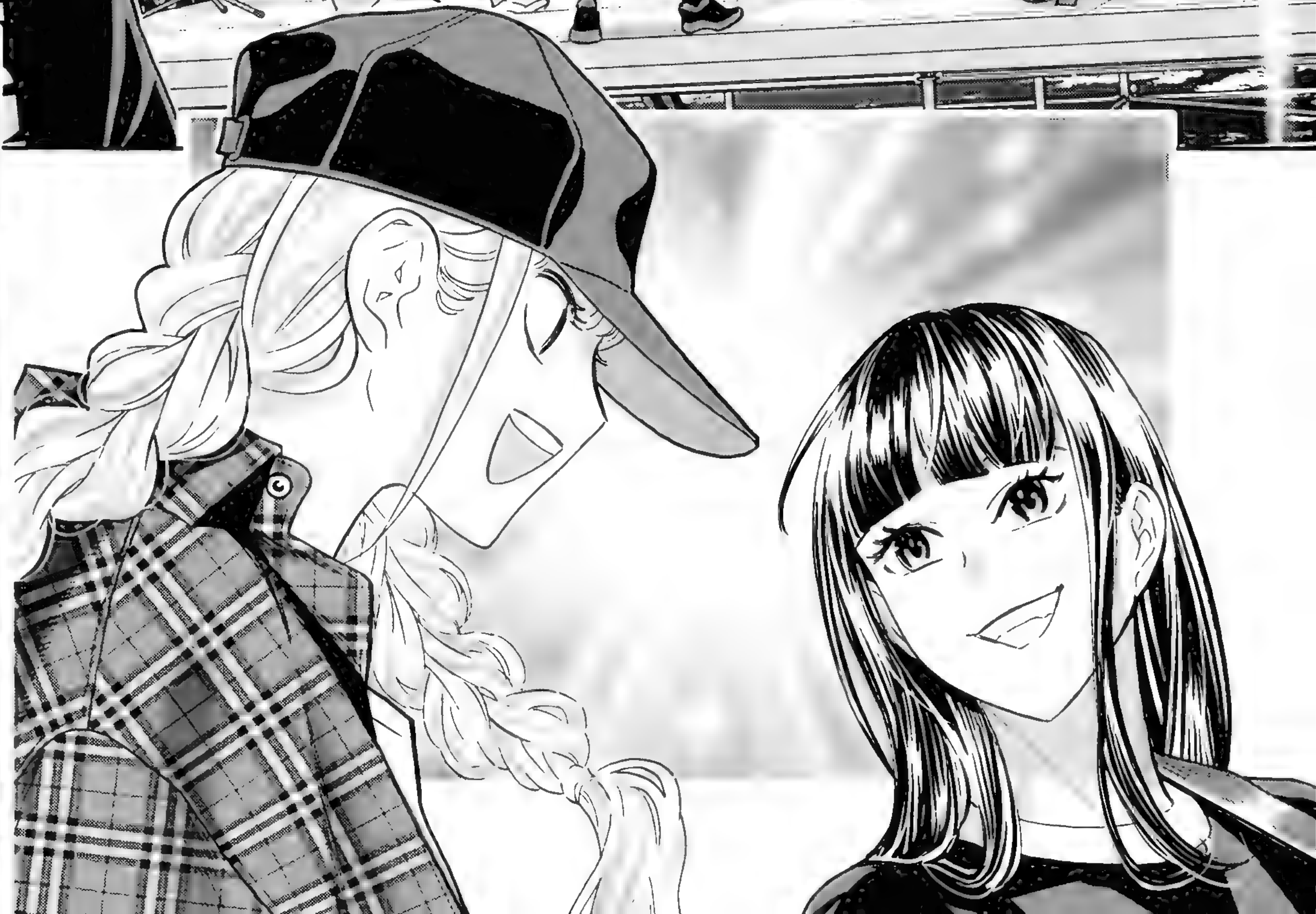








CHAPTER 87 END



1971
Boy
Knows
Nothing!

DA-
DAN
TA!!

TE!!
TE!!
TE!!
DUN
DUN
DUN
DUN

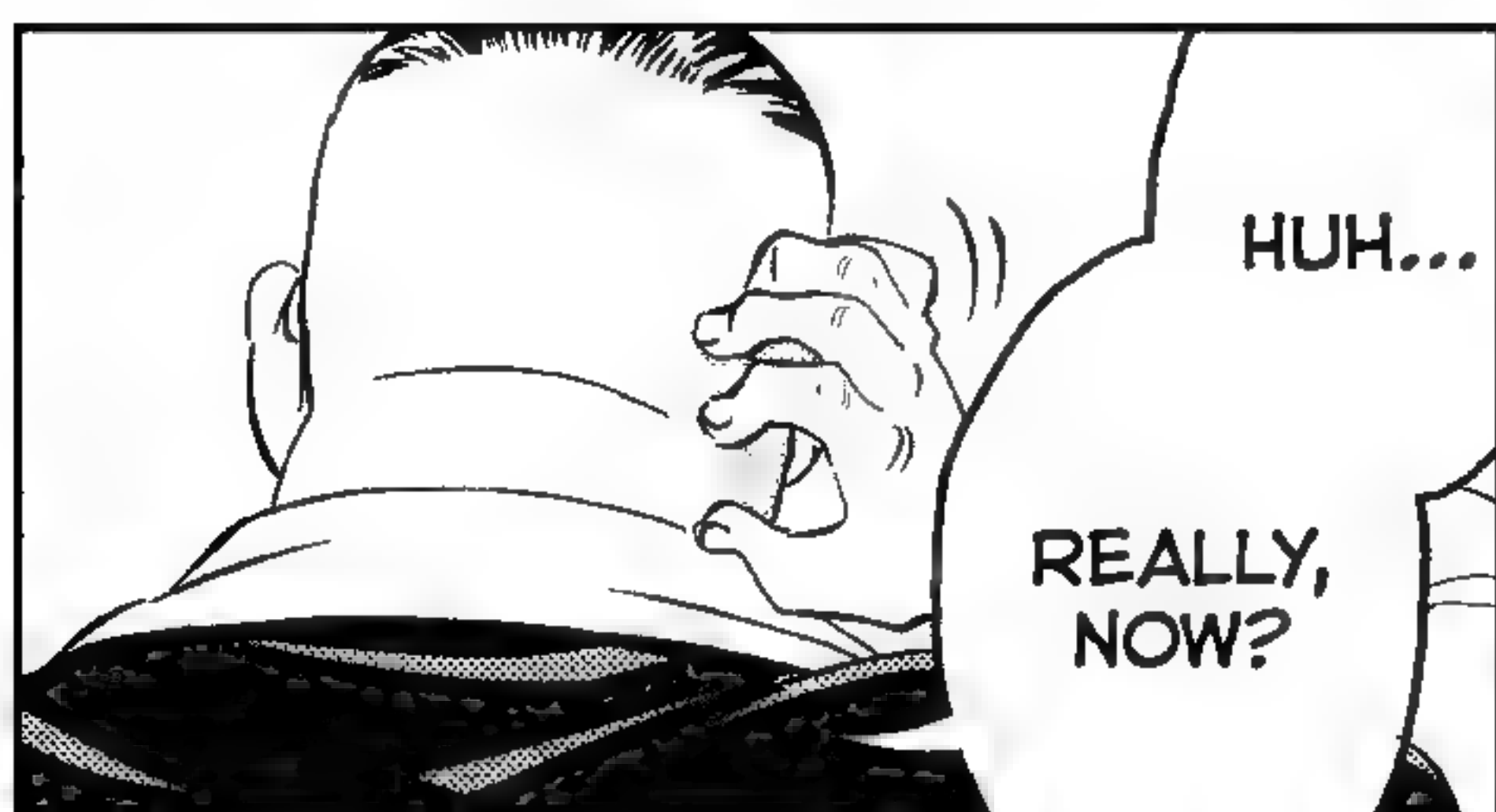
...A
PASSING
GRADE,
I GUESS.

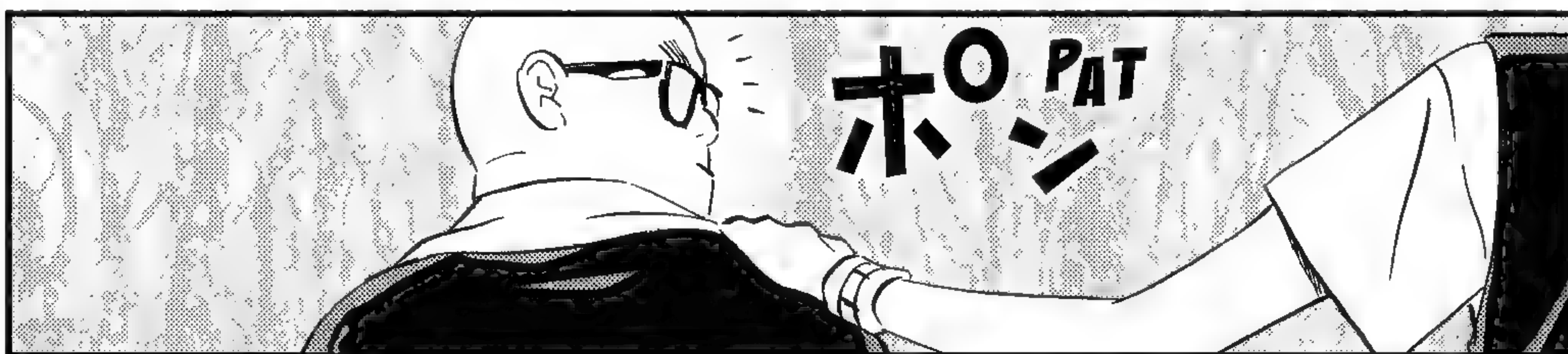
I'LL
GIVE IT...

NOW
LISTEN,
YOU...

TEACHER!
THANK
YOU SO
MUCH!

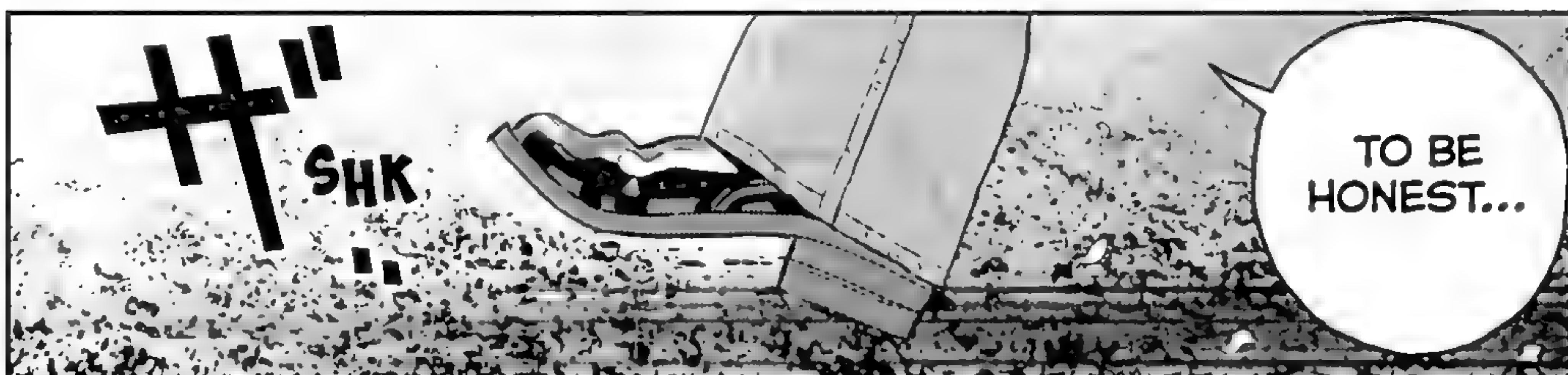
AND PLEASE,
COME WATCH
OUR SECRET
CONCERT!







WE'LL BE THERE!



SHK

TO BE HONEST...



YEAH, TRUE THAT.

...IT WAS FUN, BEING ABLE TO PLAY MUSIC AGAIN AFTER SO LONG.



IF WE JUST GO PUBLIC, THEN...



KEIJI... JUST BECAUSE THEIR TIME SLOTS OVERLAPPED DOESN'T MEAN HE SHOULD BE TRYING TO CRUSH A NEWBIE LIKE HER...



IF WE
BETRAY KEIJI
AND GO
PUBLIC...



...THEN WE'LL
HAVE TO PAY
100,000,000
YEN IN PENALTY
FEES.



WE'RE IN NO
POSITION TO
BE WORRYING
ABOUT HER.



WE'LL HAVE
TO ACCEPT THE
REPERCUSSIONS.

IT'S AN
UNREASONABLE
CONTRACT. BUT
WE'RE THE ONES
WHO WERE
BLINDED BY THE
PAY WHEN WE
SIGNED IT.

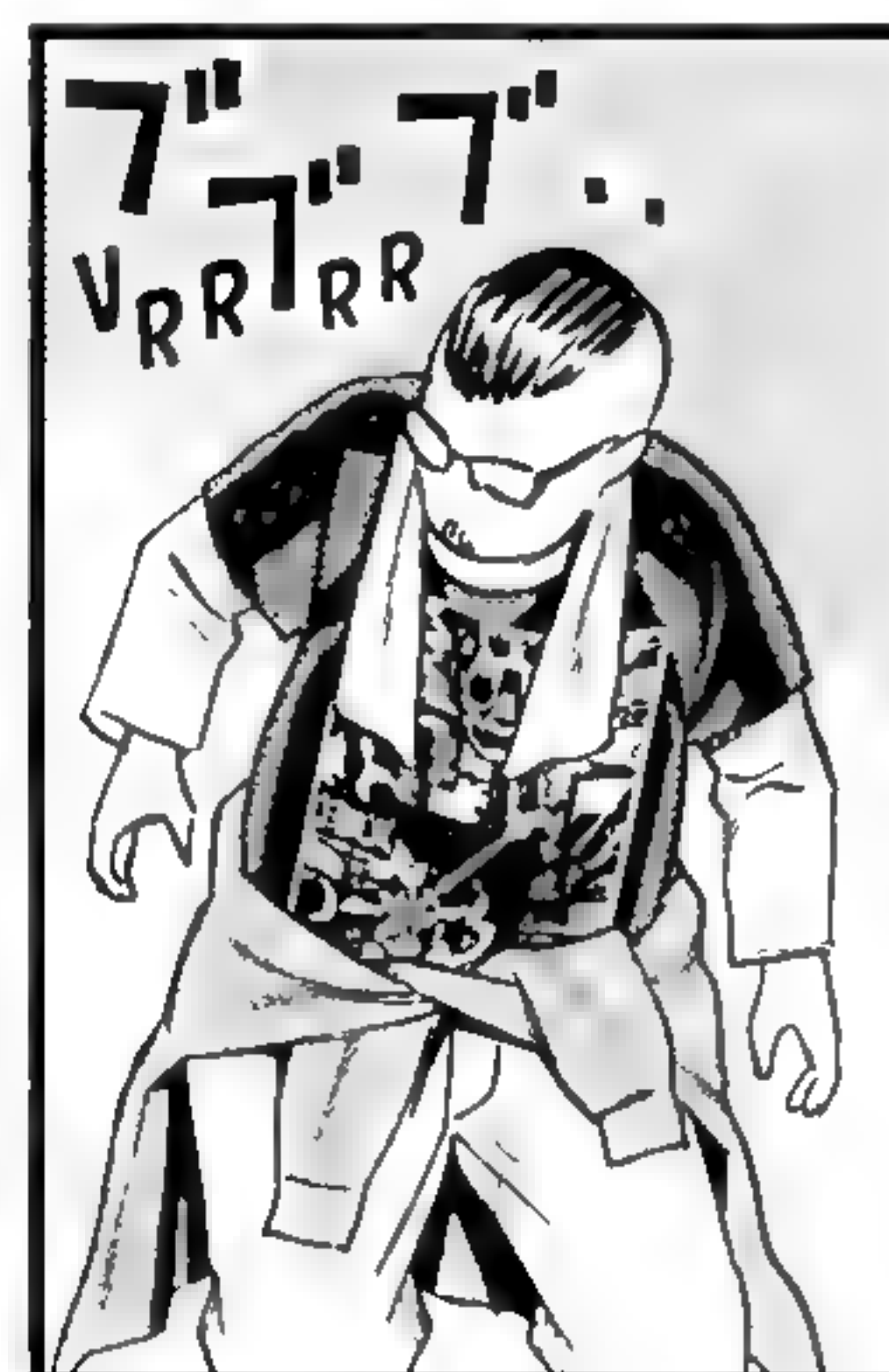


KEIJI'S
CALLING
FOR US...

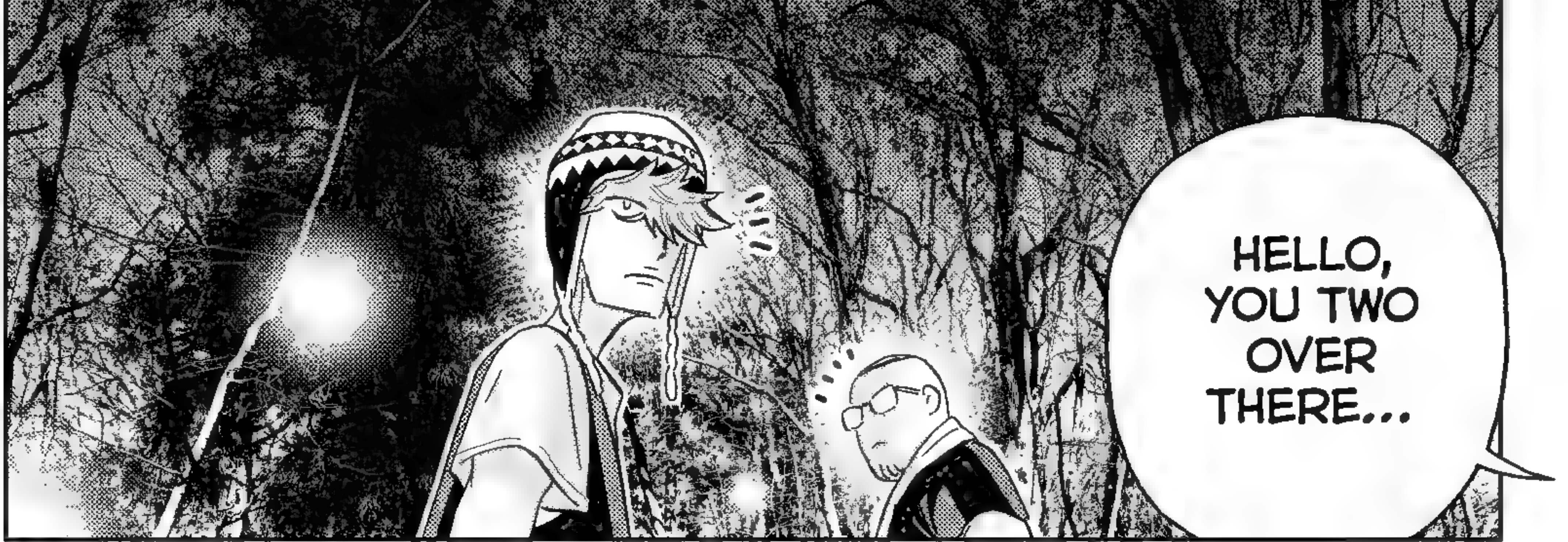


UGH...

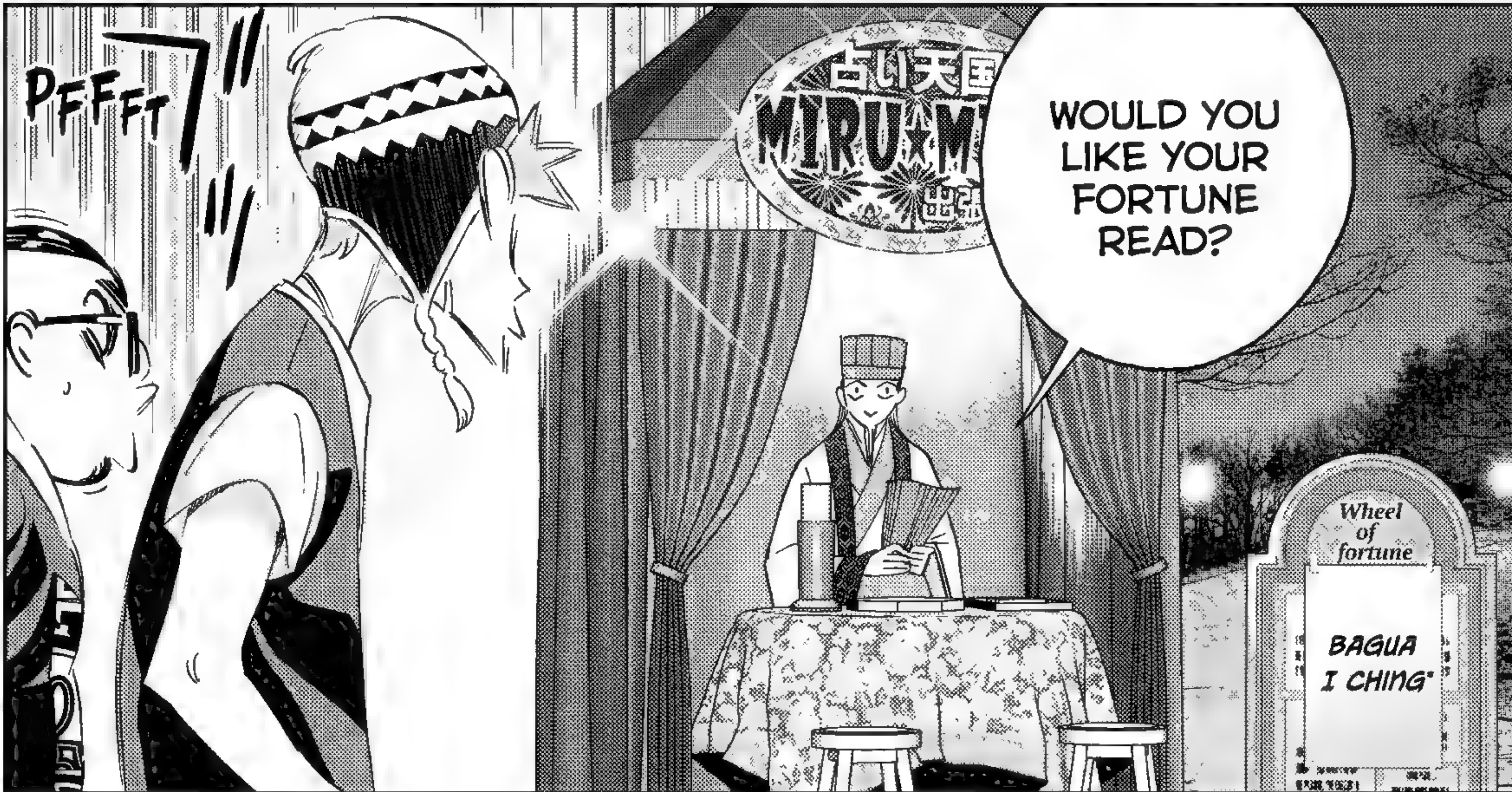
...



7" 7" 7"
VRRRR

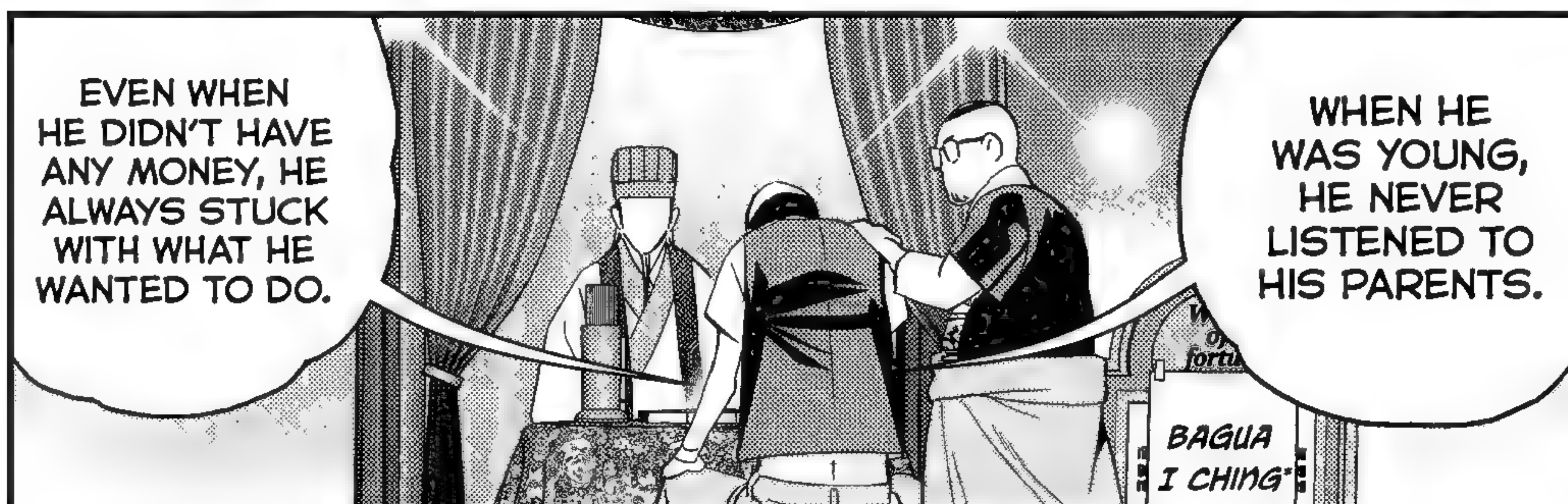


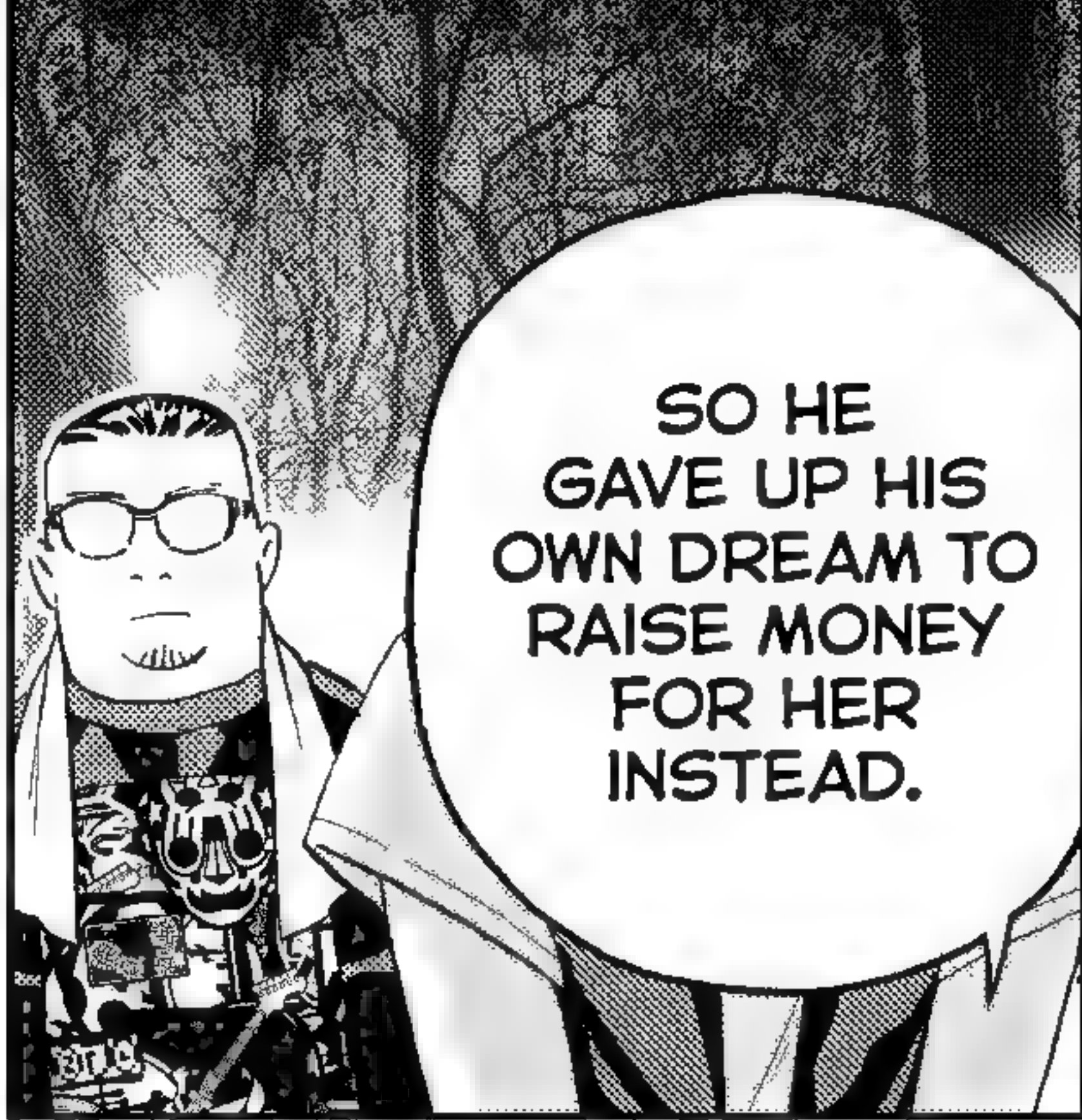
*SIGN: HEAVEN'S FORTUNE, MIRU MIRU, MOBILE VERSION



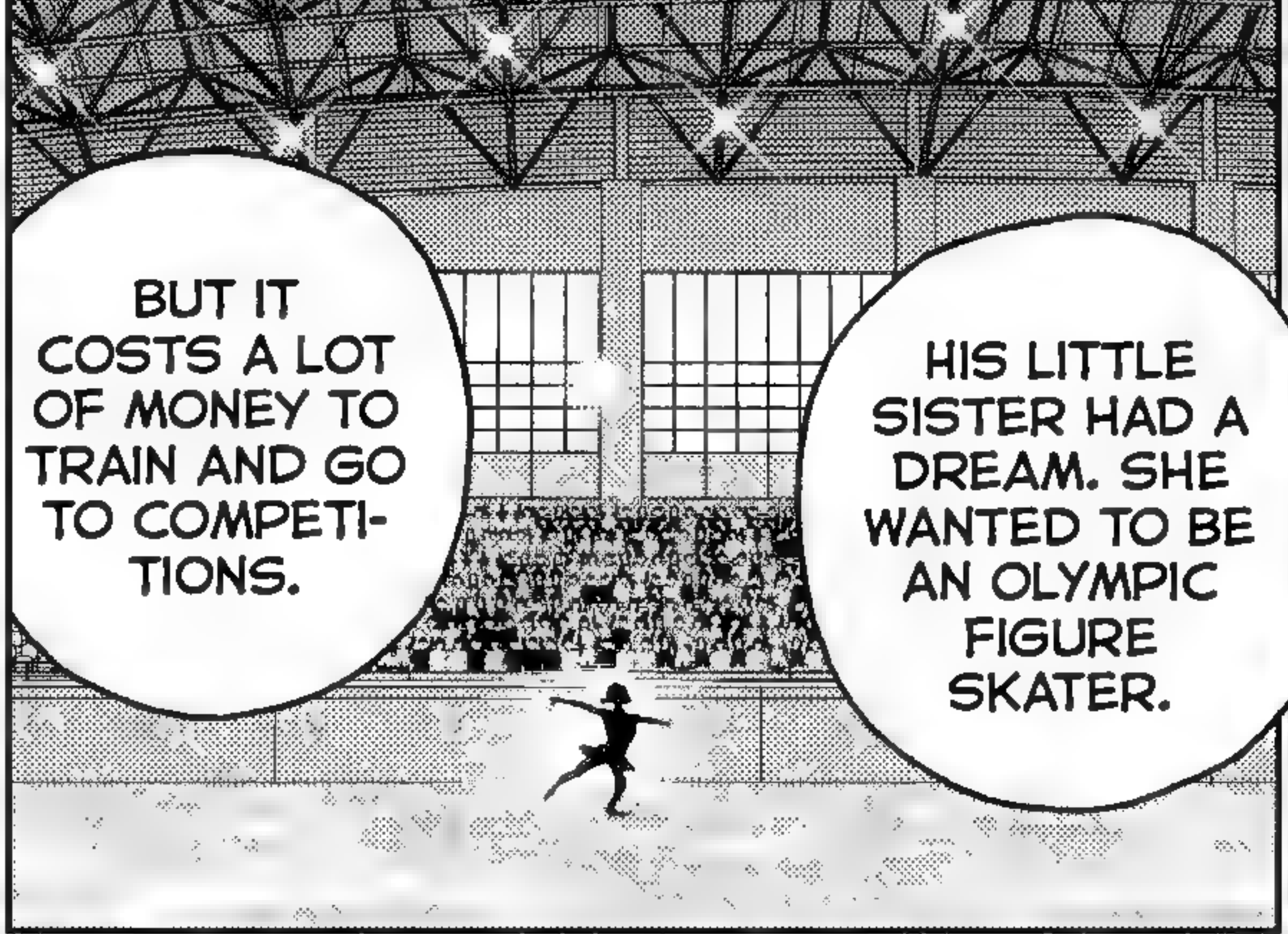
*THE BAGUA (八卦) IS OFTEN REFERRED TO AS THE EIGHT TRIGRAMS. IT'S USED IN TAOIST COSMOLOGY AND FORTUNE TELLING. THE I CHING (易经) IS A DIVINATION TEXT, OFTEN CALLED THE BOOK OF CHANGES.







SO HE
GAVE UP HIS
OWN DREAM TO
RAISE MONEY
FOR HER
INSTEAD.



BUT IT
COSTS A LOT
OF MONEY TO
TRAIN AND GO
TO COMPETI-
TIONS.

HIS LITTLE
SISTER HAD A
DREAM. SHE
WANTED TO BE
AN OLYMPIC
FIGURE
SKATER.



AND IF
I EVER
GET THAT
CHANCE...

I WOULD
LOVE TO
MEET
HIM.



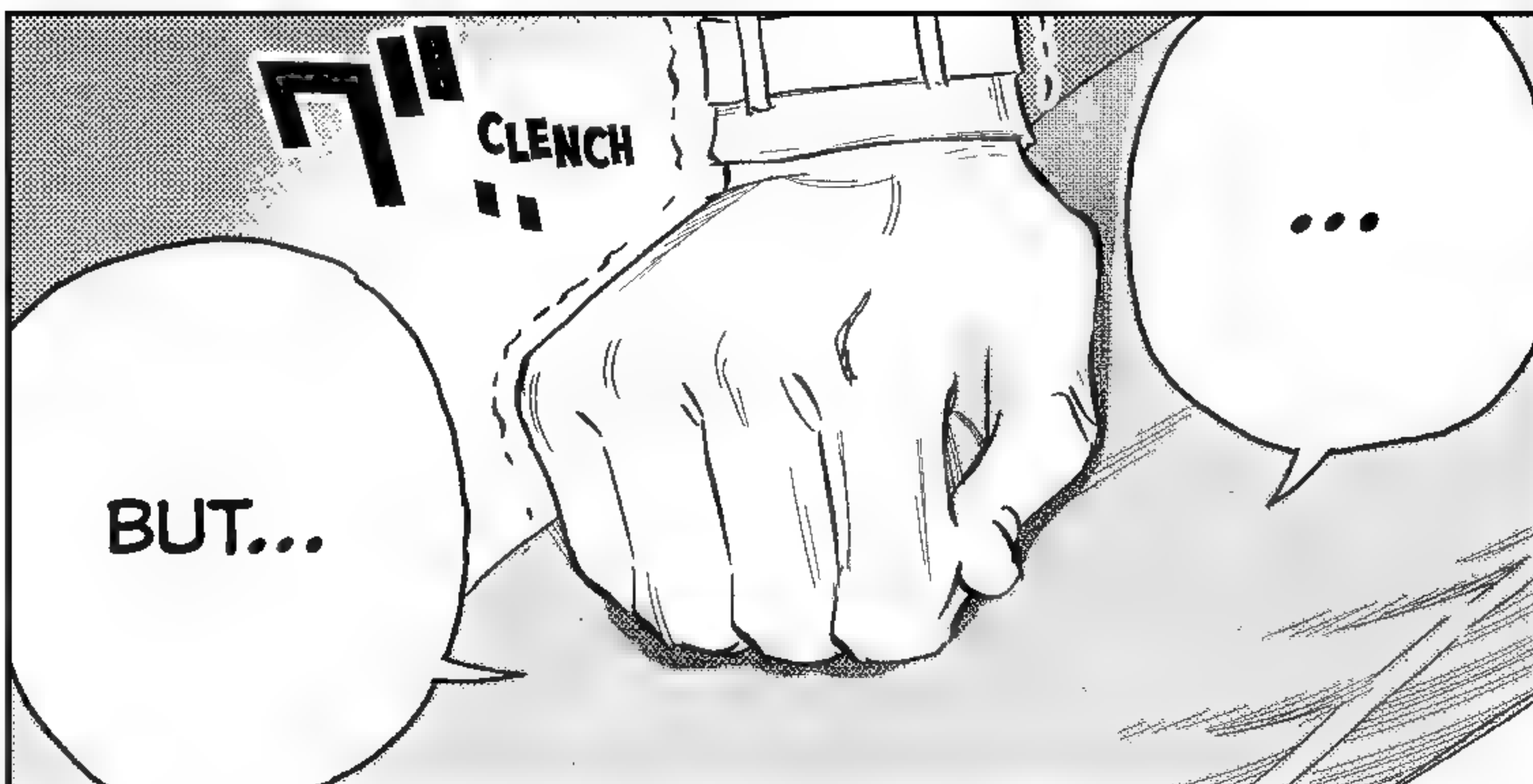
...SOUNDS
LIKE AN
AMAZING
OLDER
BROTHER.

HE...



...THAT
HE MADE
THE RIGHT
CHOICE.

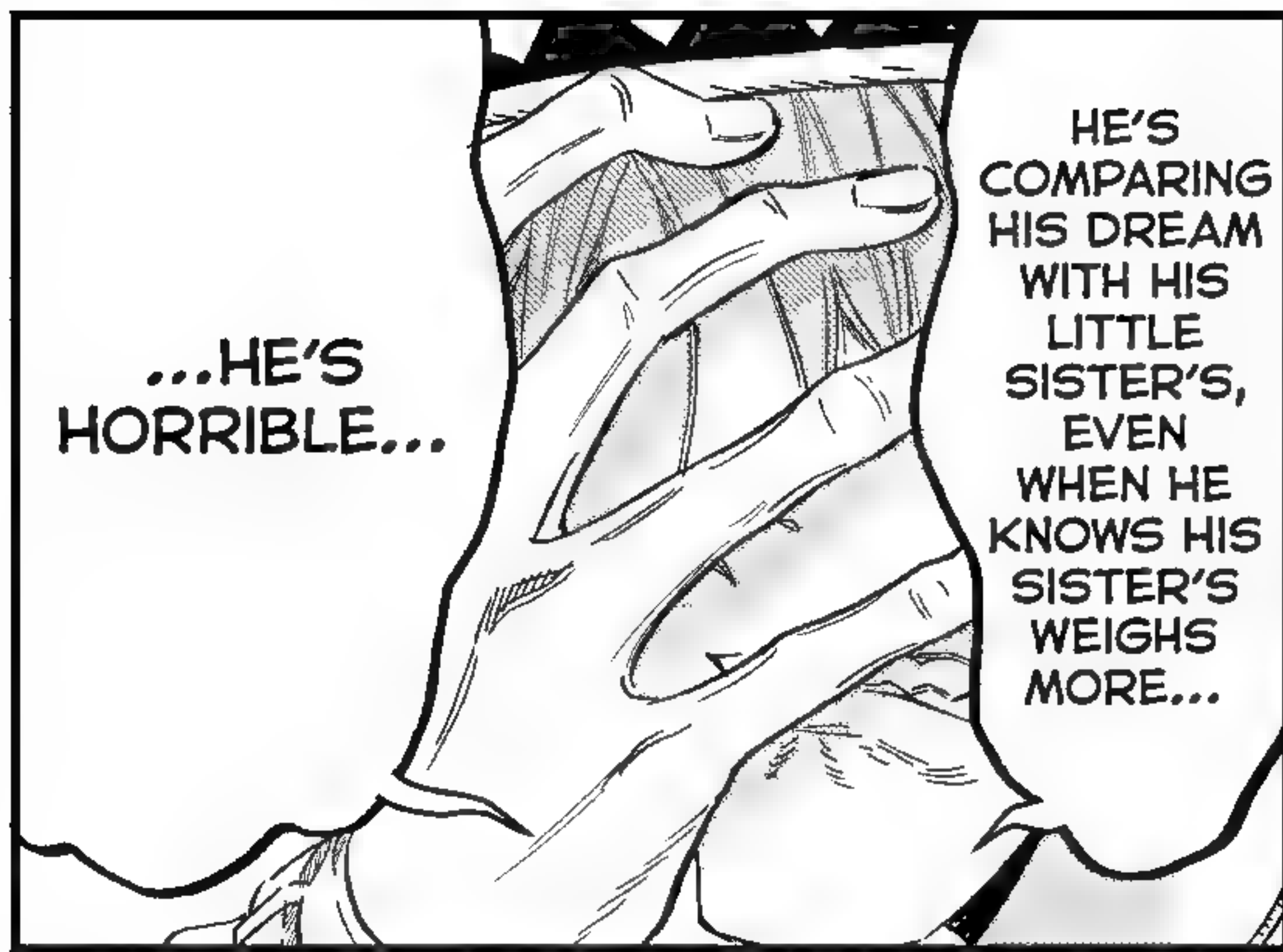
...I WOULD
TELL HIM...



BUT...

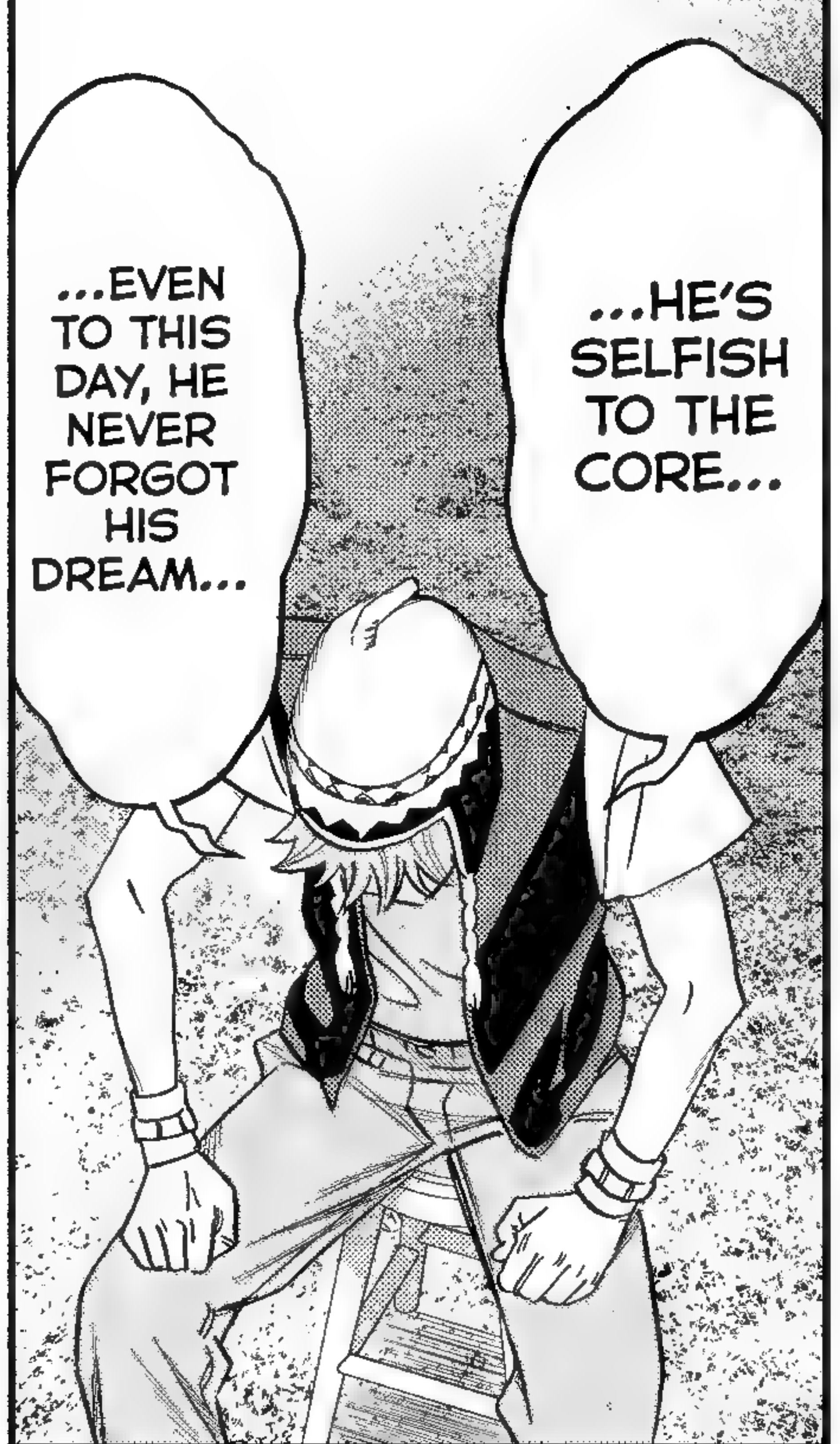


...



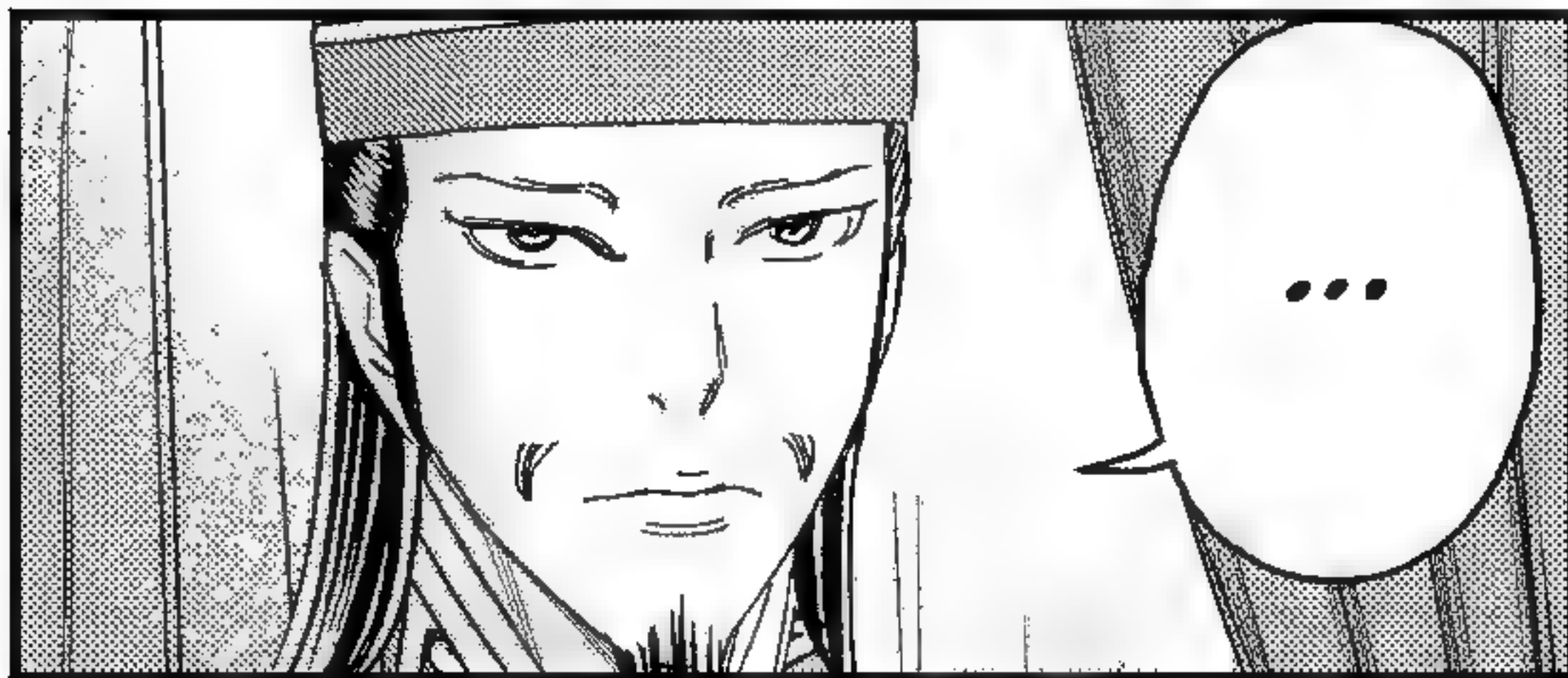
...HE'S HORRIBLE...

HE'S COMPARING HIS DREAM WITH HIS LITTLE SISTER'S, EVEN WHEN HE KNOWS HIS SISTER'S WEIGHS MORE...



...EVEN TO THIS DAY, HE NEVER FORGOT HIS DREAM...

...HE'S SELFISH TO THE CORE...



...



THERE WAS A GREAT WARLORD WHO STRUCK FEAR INTO THE HEARTS OF THE PEOPLE...

IN ANCIENT CHINA...



...WAS LU BU FENGXIAN.

HIS NAME...

FURTHERMORE,
TO ACQUIRE EVEN
MORE INFLUENCE,
HE MURDERED HIS
SECOND FOSTER
FATHER AS WELL.

WITH
OVERWHELMING
POWER, HE EVEN
KILLED HIS OWN
FOSTER FATHER TO
ATTAIN ALL THAT
HE DESIRED.



...AND
IN THE END,
HE WAS IN TURN
BETRAYED IN
TURN BY ONE OF
HIS ALLIES AND
EXECUTED..



AFTER THAT,
HE CONTINUED
TO BETRAY
THOSE HE
ALLIED WITH...

BETRAYING
OTHERS WILL
EVENTUALLY
LEAD TO YOUR
OWN DOWNFALL.

HOW-
EVER...

INDEED.
KARMA
WILL CATCH
UP TO YOU.

THAT
BETRAYING
PEOPLE IS
BAD?

YOU'RE
TRYING
TO SAY...

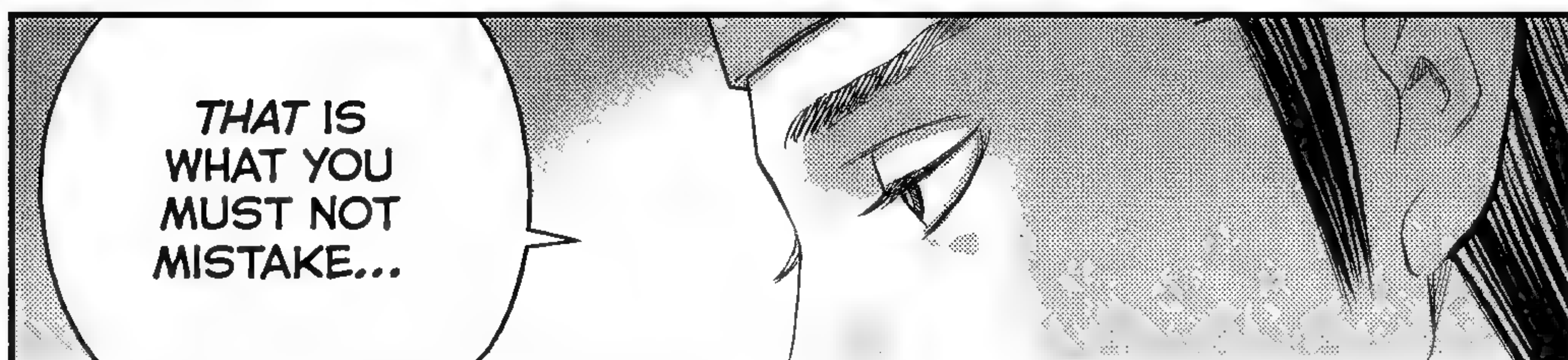




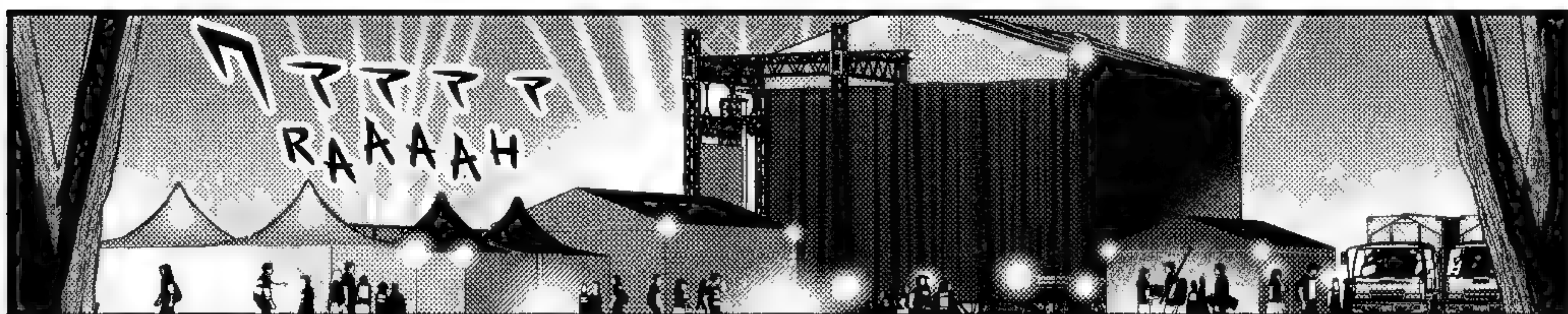
IS IT YOUR
EMPLOYER?
YOUR OWN
CONSCIENCE?

OR IS
IT YOUR
FAMILY?

...WHAT IS
THE ONE THING
YOU CANNOT
FORSAKE? WHAT
DOES THE REAL
YOU CLING TO?



THAT IS
WHAT YOU
MUST NOT
MISTAKE...



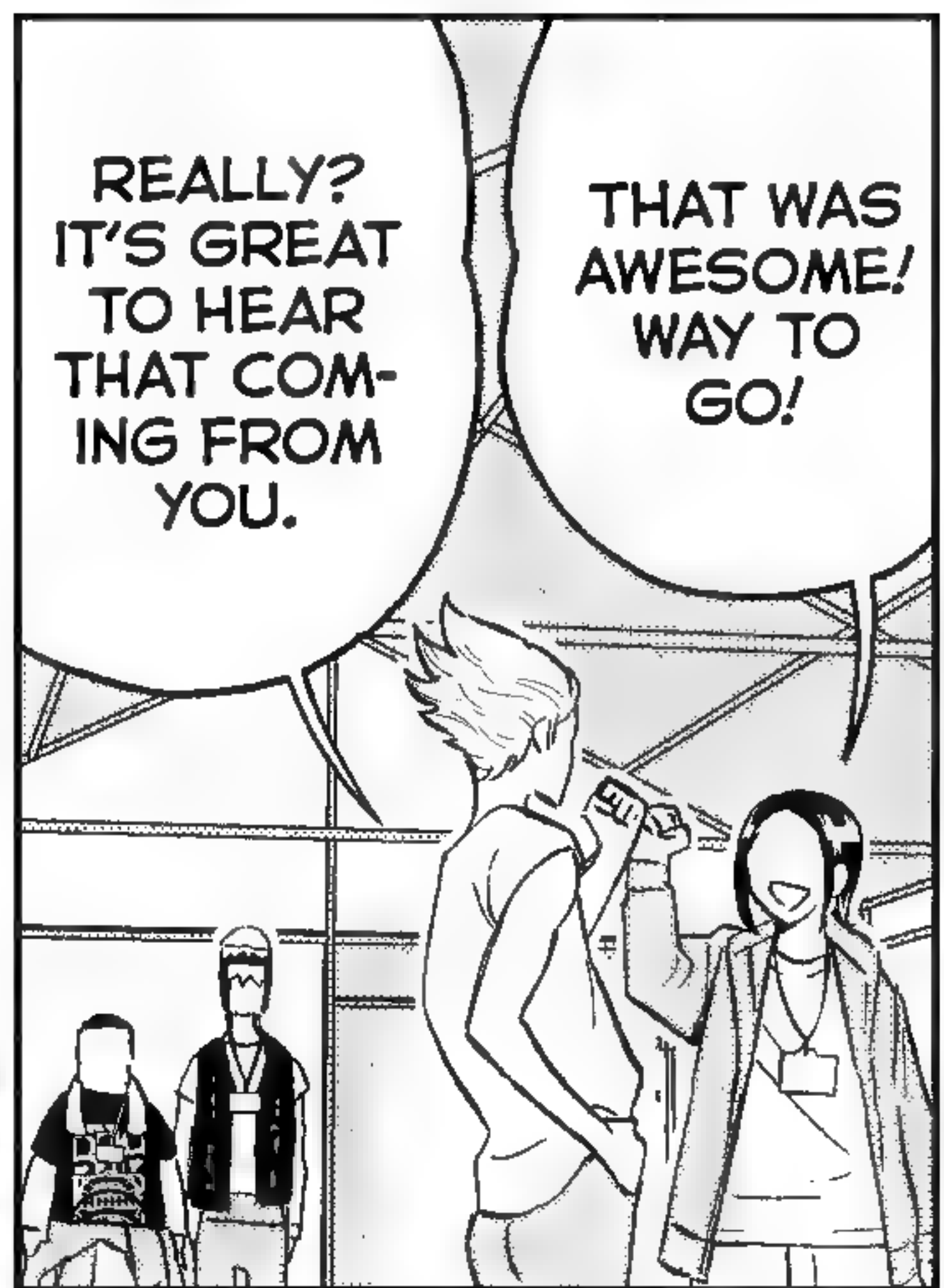
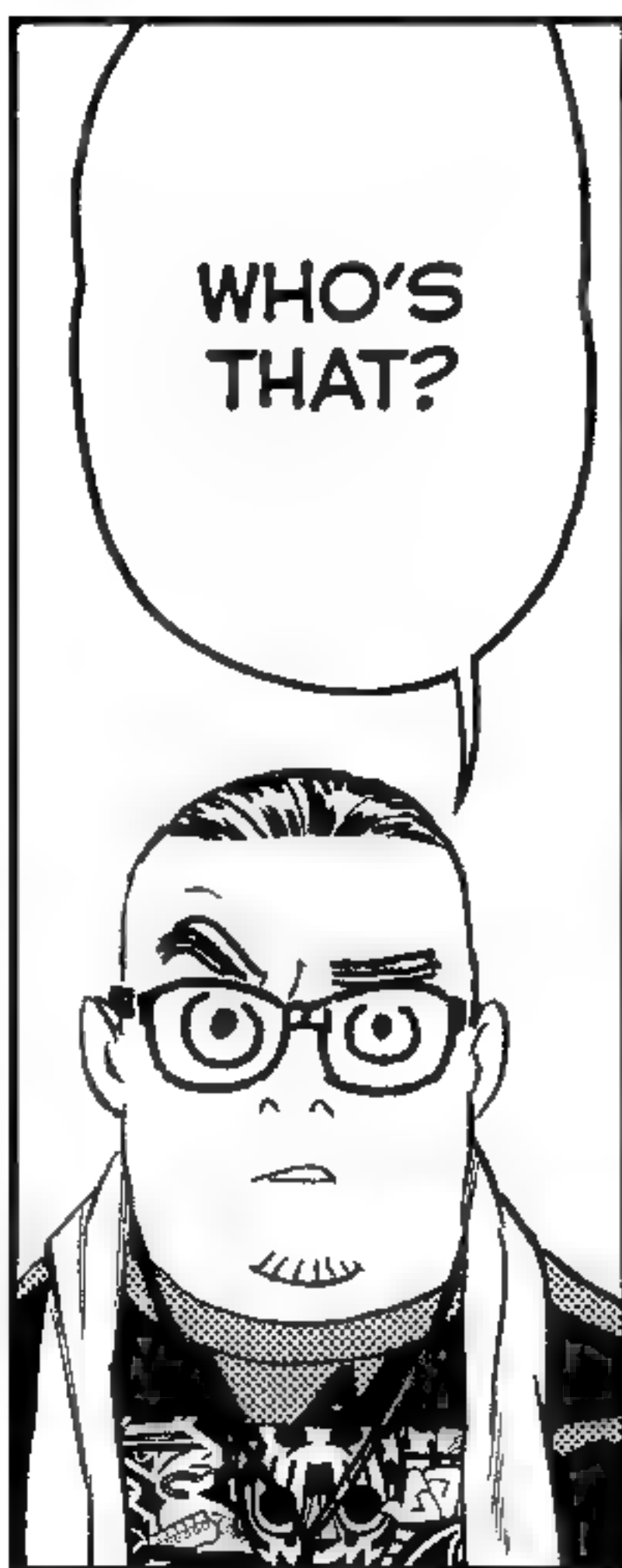
THEN
THAT'S
FINE...

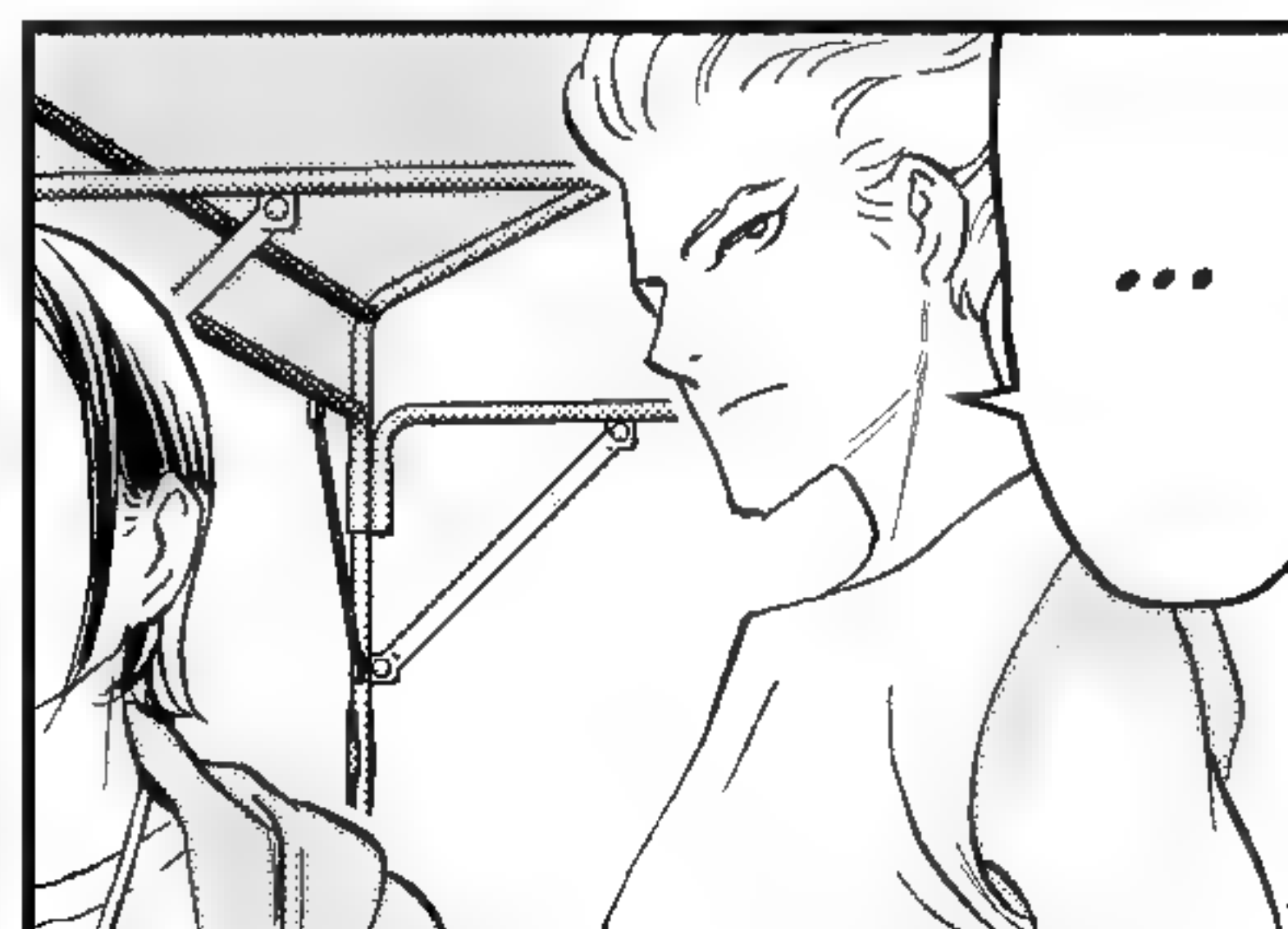


I'M OKAY.
I FEEL CALMER
AFTER TALKING
TO HIM,
ACTUALLY.



DON'T LET
THAT WEIRDO
GET TO YOU.
I DON'T WANT
YOU GETTING
ANY WILD
THOUGHTS
NOW.



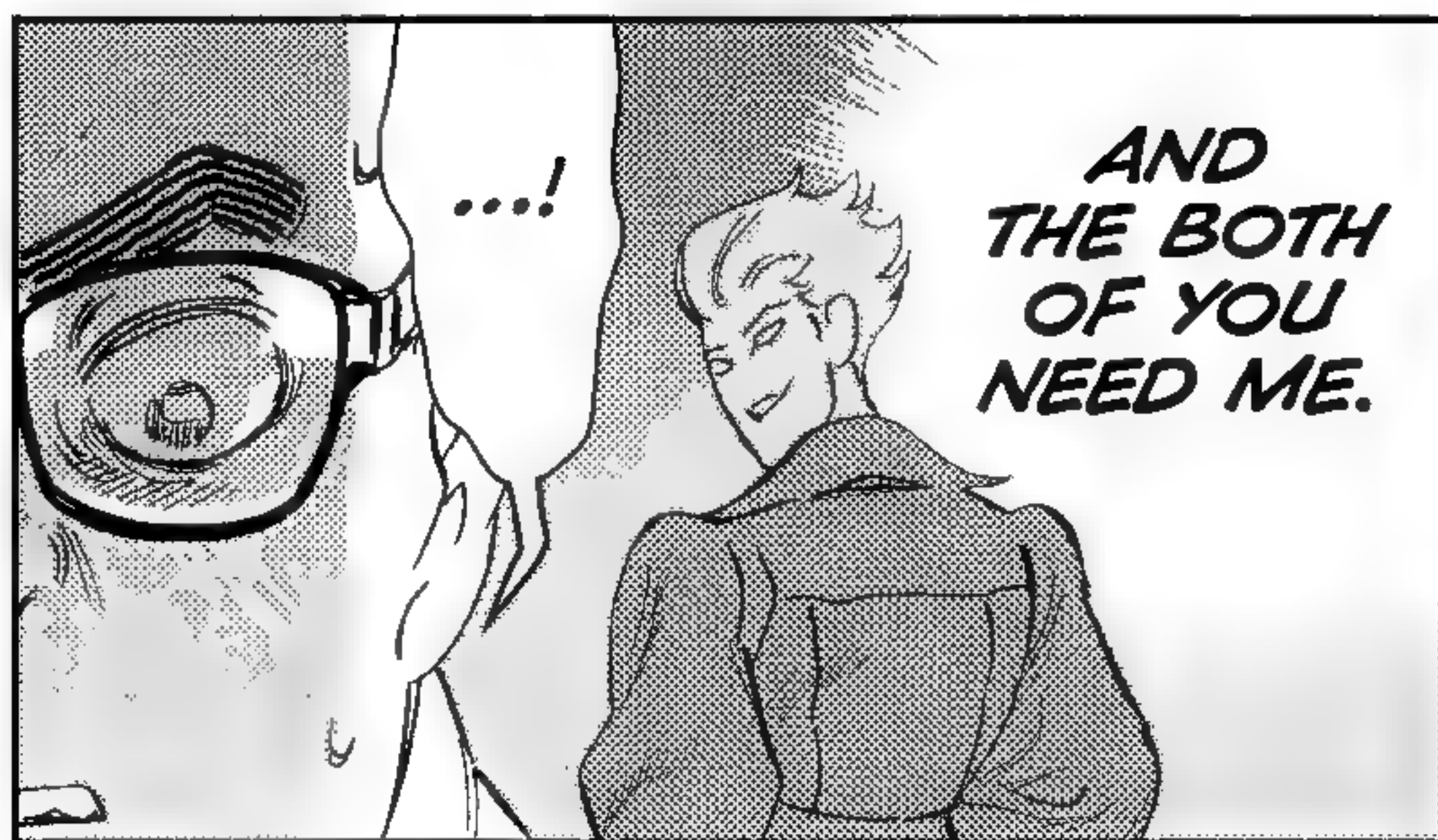




I NEED KABE-KUN
AND KABE-KUN
NEEDS ME TO
GO TO THE NEXT
STAGE.



I JUST
BELIEVE THAT
KABE-KUN...



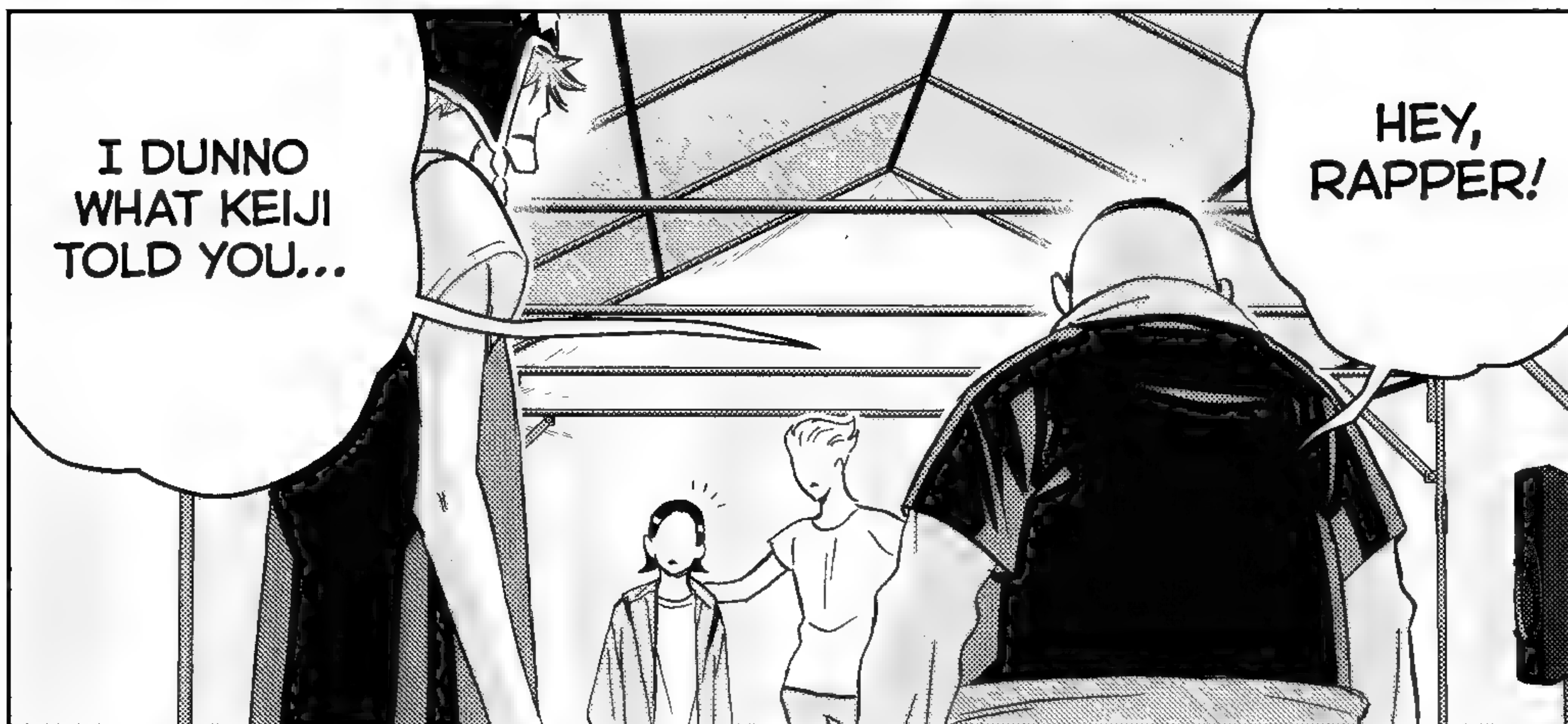
...!

*AND
THE BOTH
OF YOU
NEED ME.*



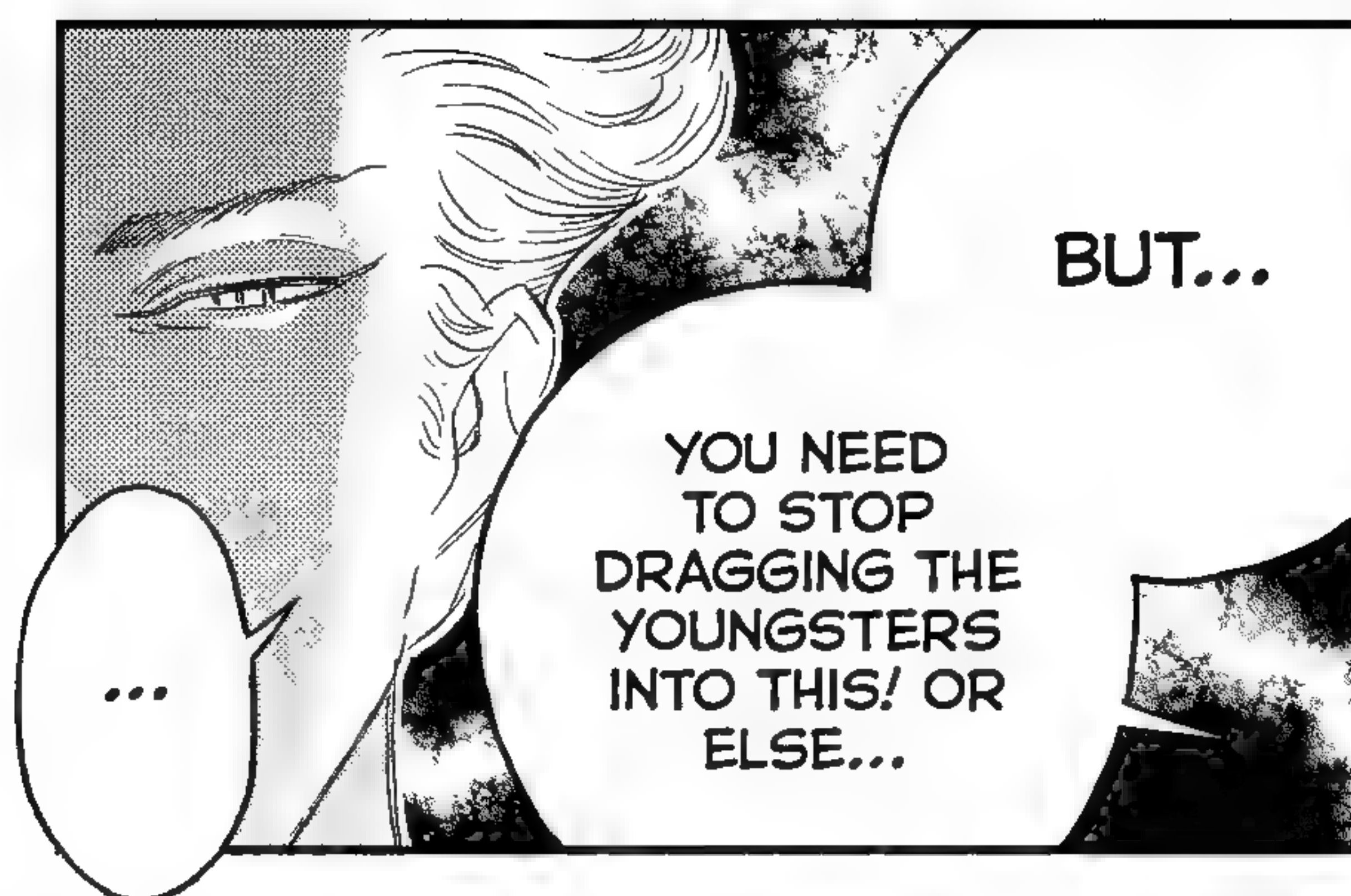
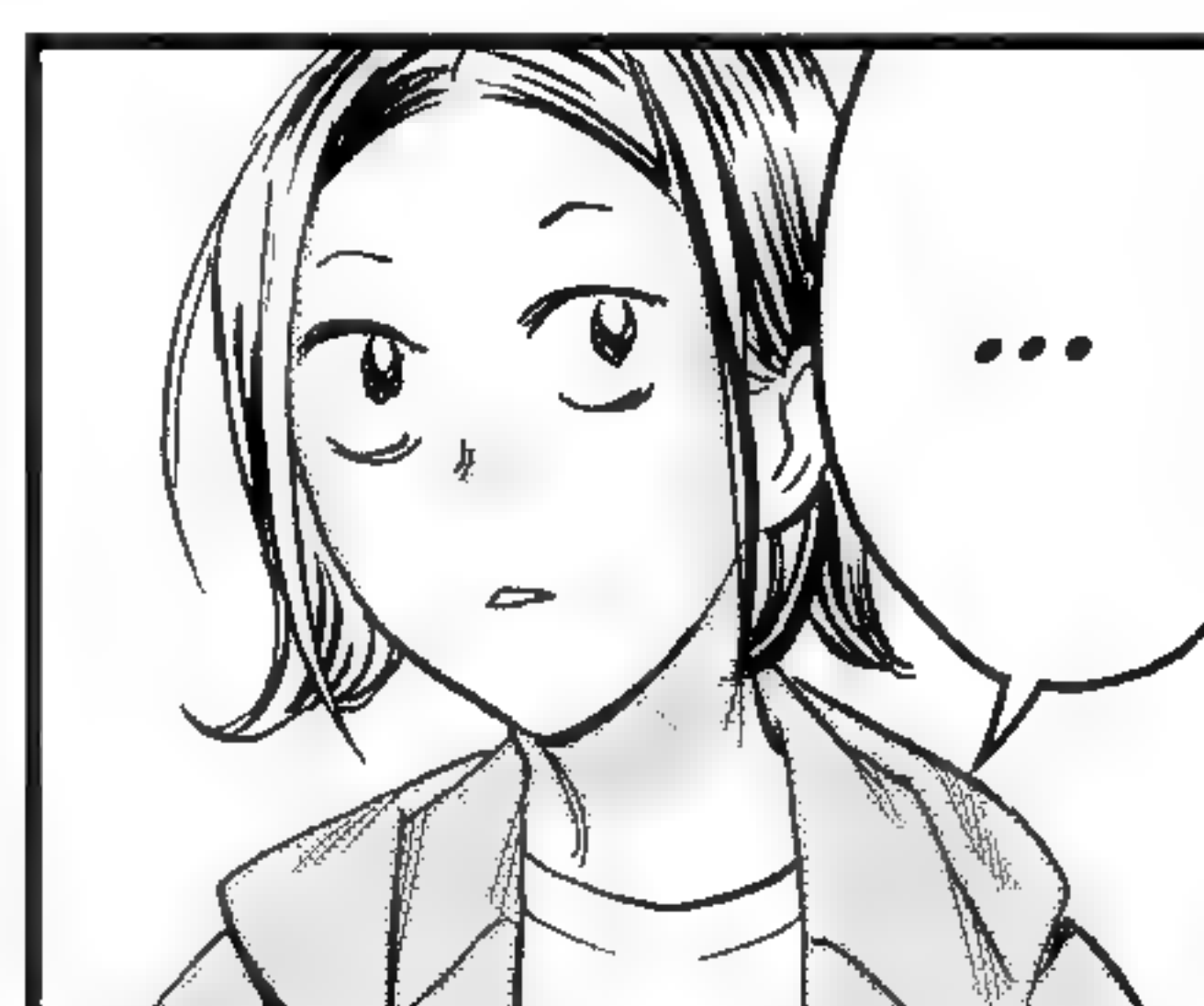
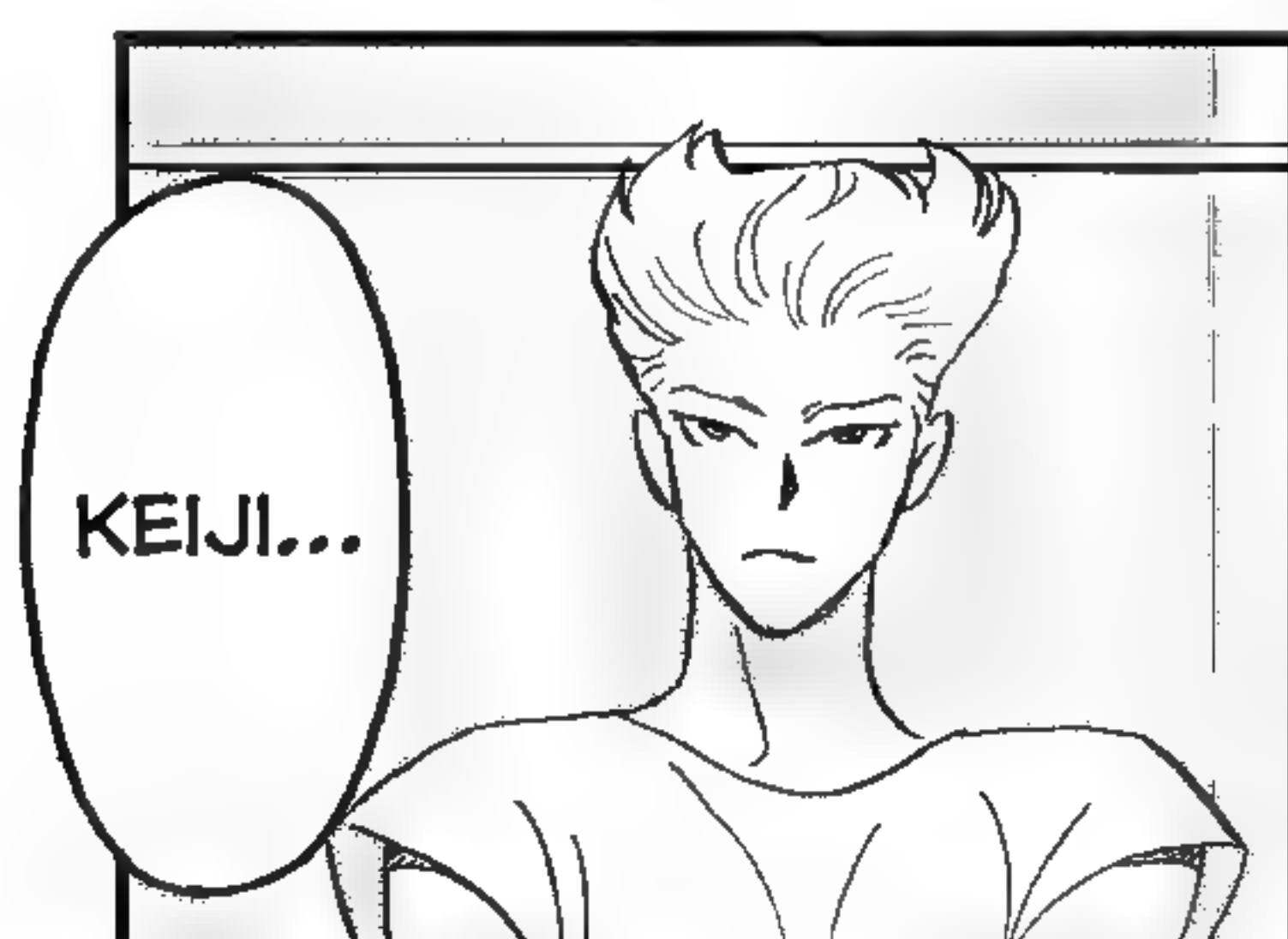
*NANBO...
HIGASHI-
YAMA...*

*I NEED
YOU
TWO...*



I DUNNO
WHAT KEIJI
TOLD YOU...

HEY,
RAPPER!





THANK
YOU SO
MUCH FOR
INVITING
US!

THOSE
TWO HAVE
ALWAYS
BEEN SUCH
A BIG HELP
AS MY
STAFF.

KEIJI
...

SO? DID
YOU LIKE
MY LITTLE
SURPRISE?

...!!
GRRRK

NANPO?

SO...WHAT
WAS THAT
ABOUT
YOUNG-
STERS...

NOTHING!
IT'S NOTHING!

1971
Boy
Knows
Nothing!





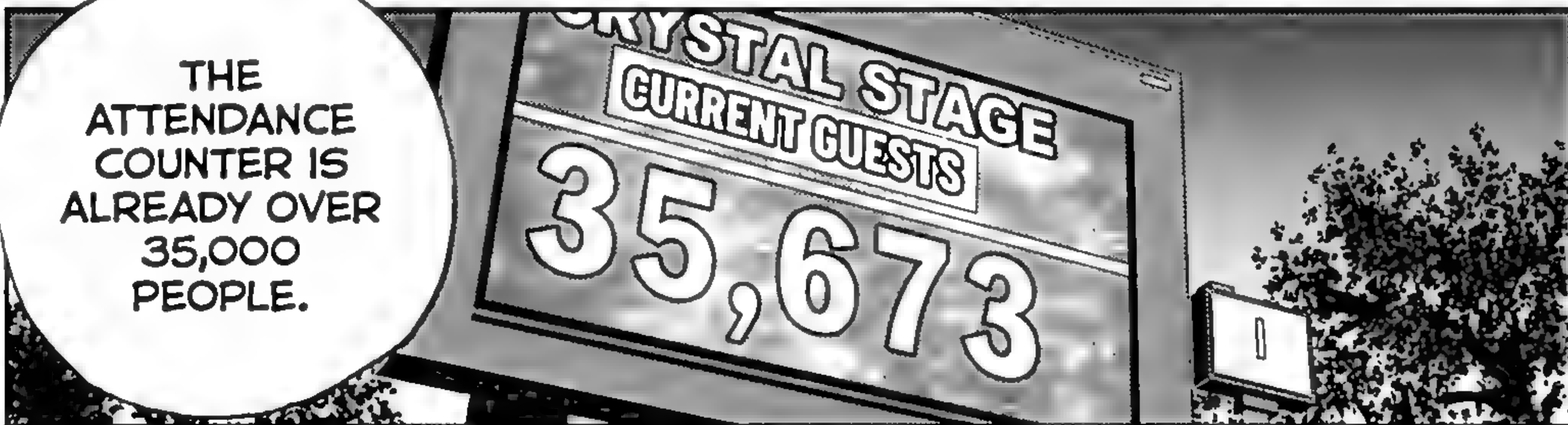
WHAT'S
THE SITU-
ATION?



THIS IS
K...

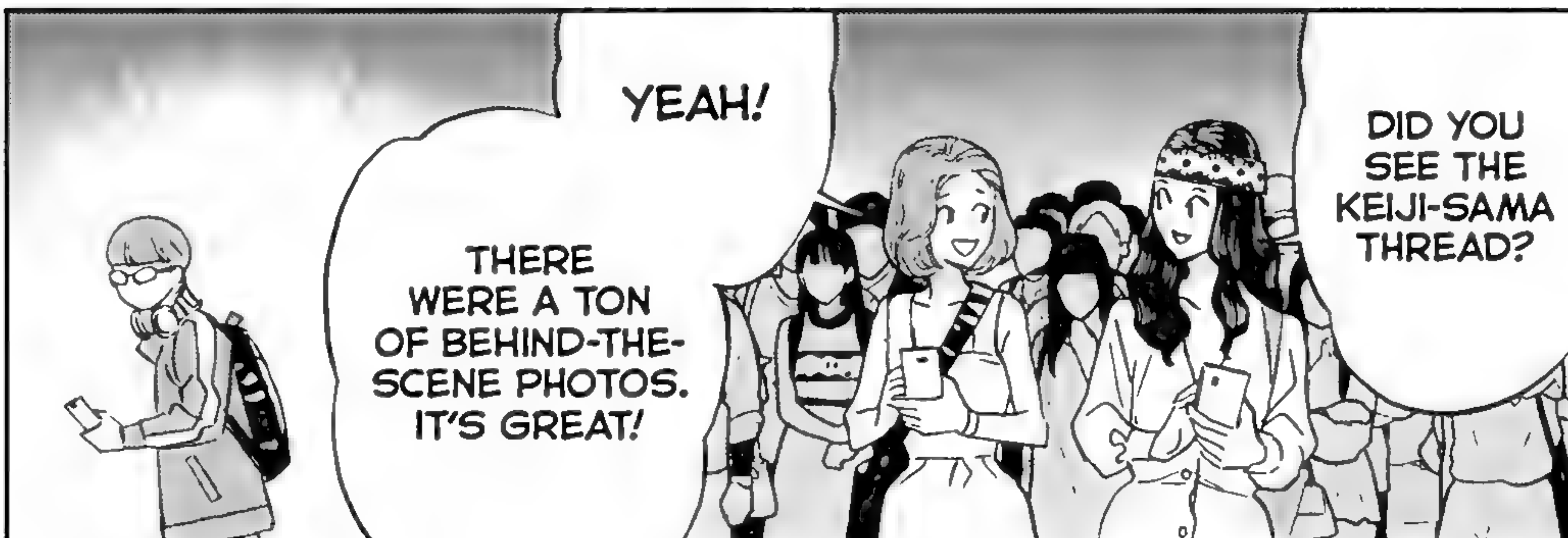


THERE
ARE A TON
OF PEOPLE AT
KEIJI'S CRYSTAL
STAGE, JUST
AS WE
EXPECTED.



THE
ATTENDANCE
COUNTER IS
ALREADY OVER
35,000
PEOPLE.

CRYSTAL STAGE
CURRENT GUESTS
35,673



YEAH!

THERE
WERE A TON
OF BEHIND-THE-
SCENE PHOTOS.
IT'S GREAT!

DID YOU
SEE THE
KEIJI-SAMA
THREAD?



OVER
HALF OF
KEIJI'S
FANS...

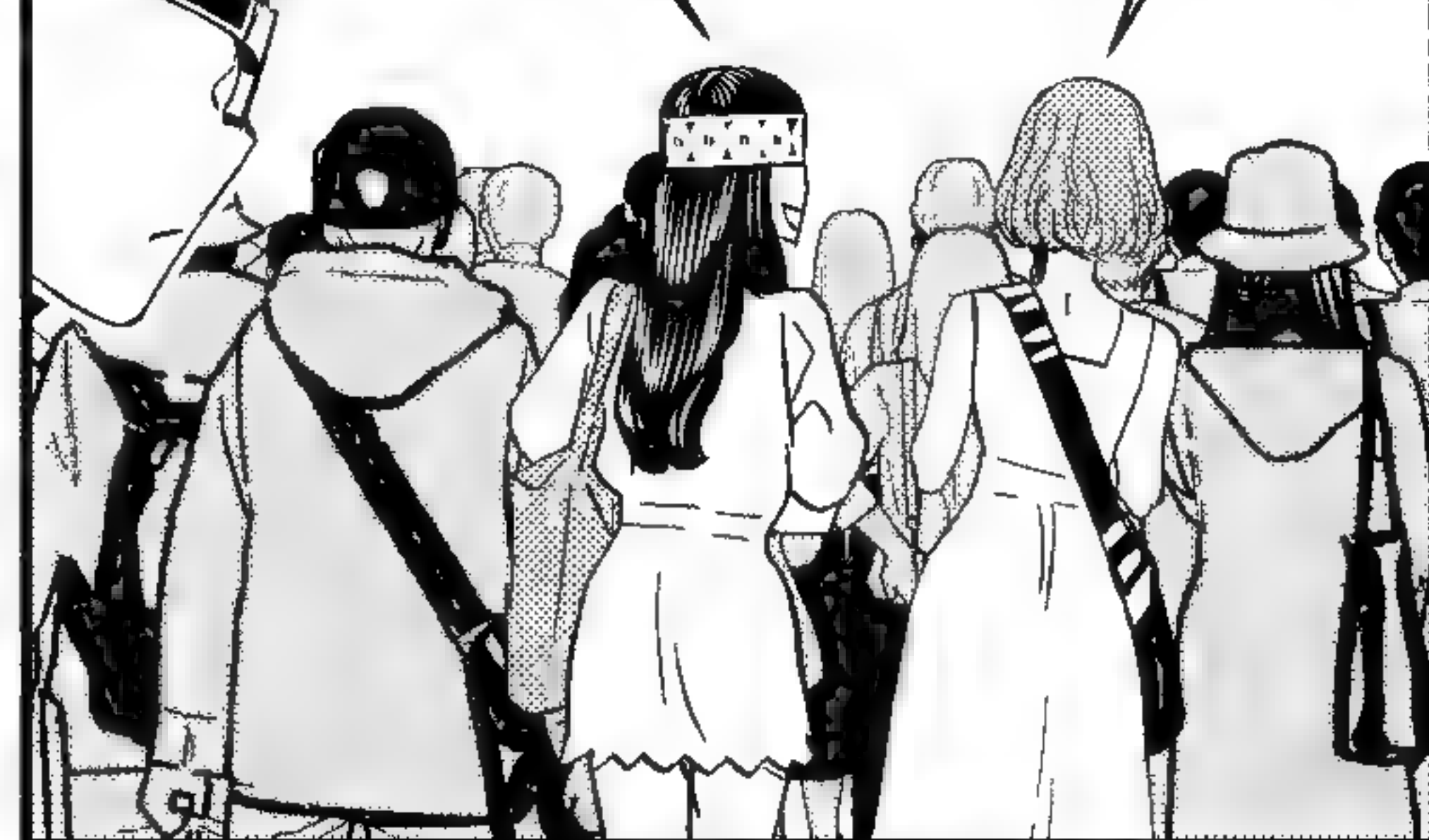


I TOTALLY
GET IT. IT WAS
A RECOMMEN-
DATION FROM
THE SINGER
HIMSELF,
AFTER ALL!

AND
THERE'S SO
MUCH INFO
ON SOCIAL
MEDIA, IT'S
MAKING MY
HEAD SPIN!



...SEEM TO
BE CHECKING
THE INFO ON
THE OFFICIAL
BOARDS.



ALL RIGHT,
UNDERSTOOD.

...



*Come in,
Glasses
Boy.*

*This
is K.*



DJ ZETT IS
PERFORMING
LAST.

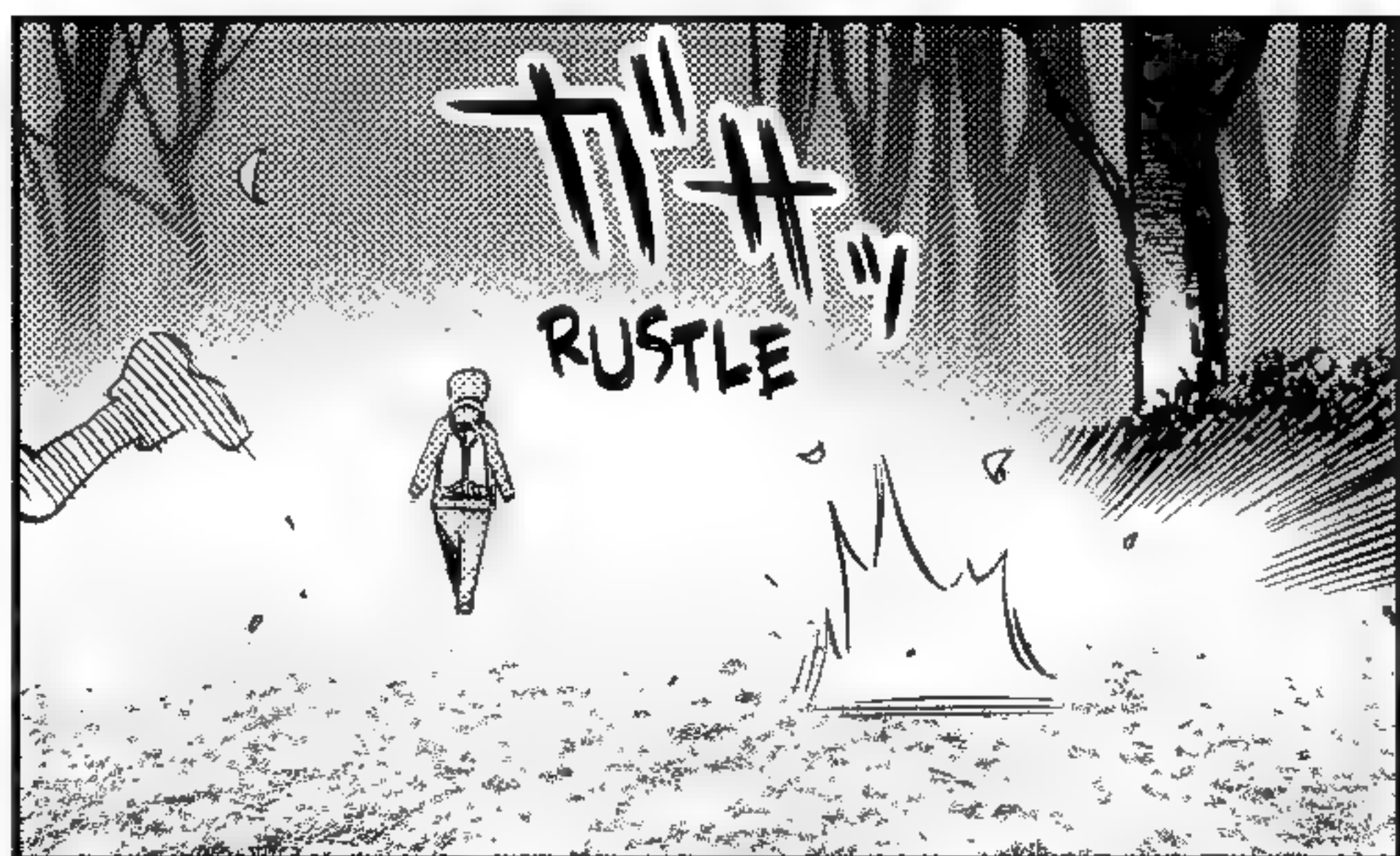
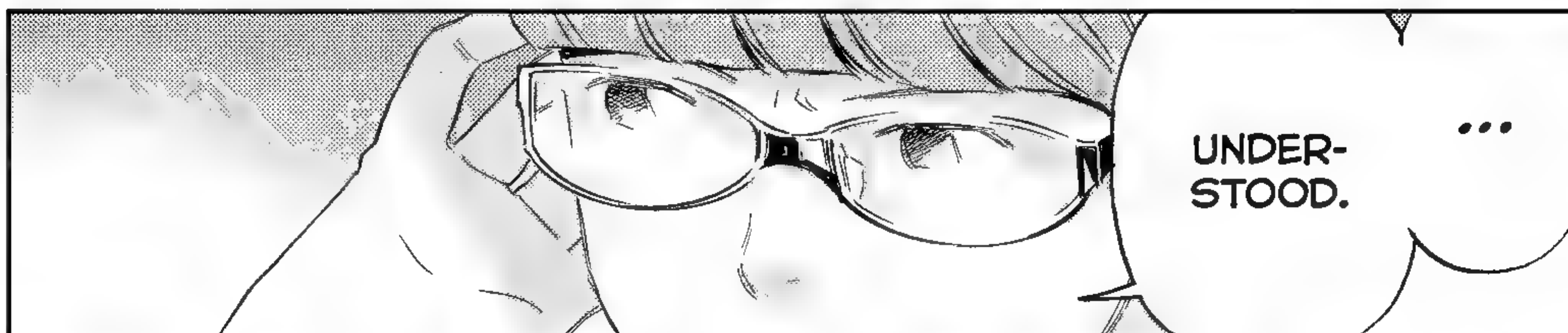
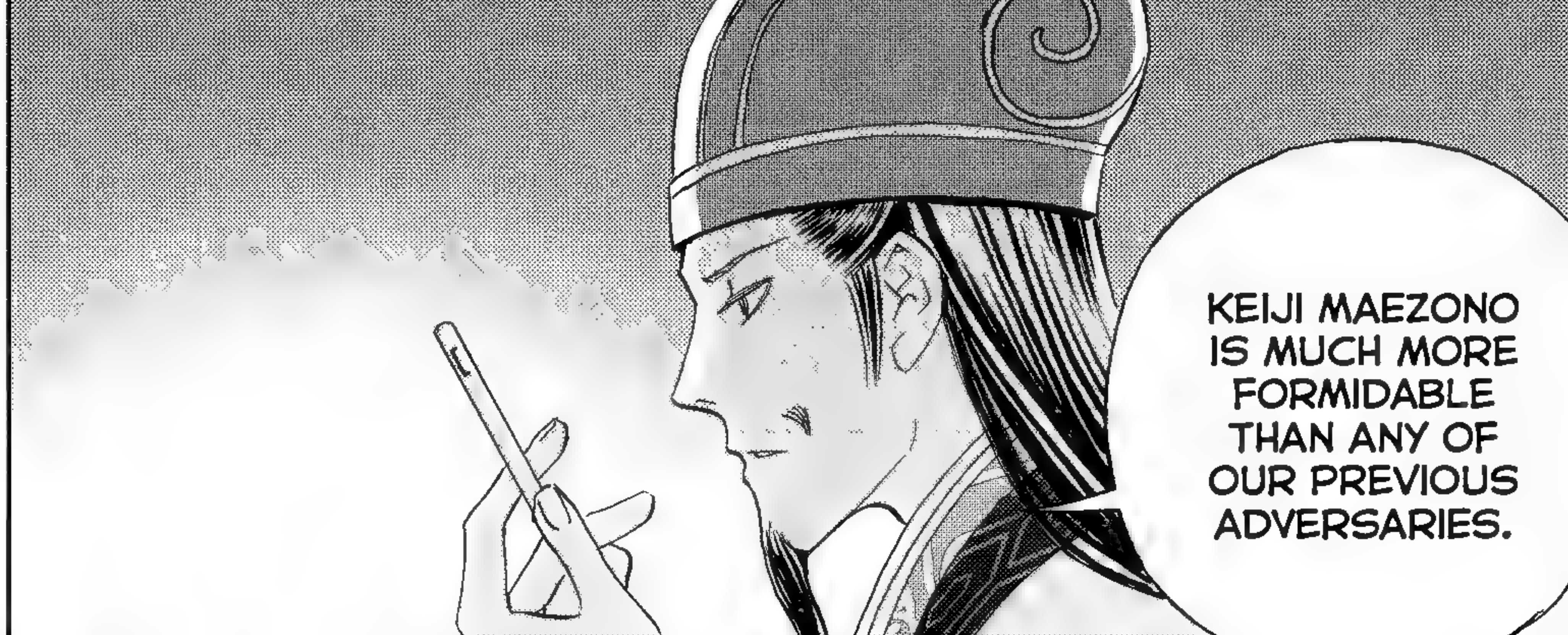
YES,
SIR.

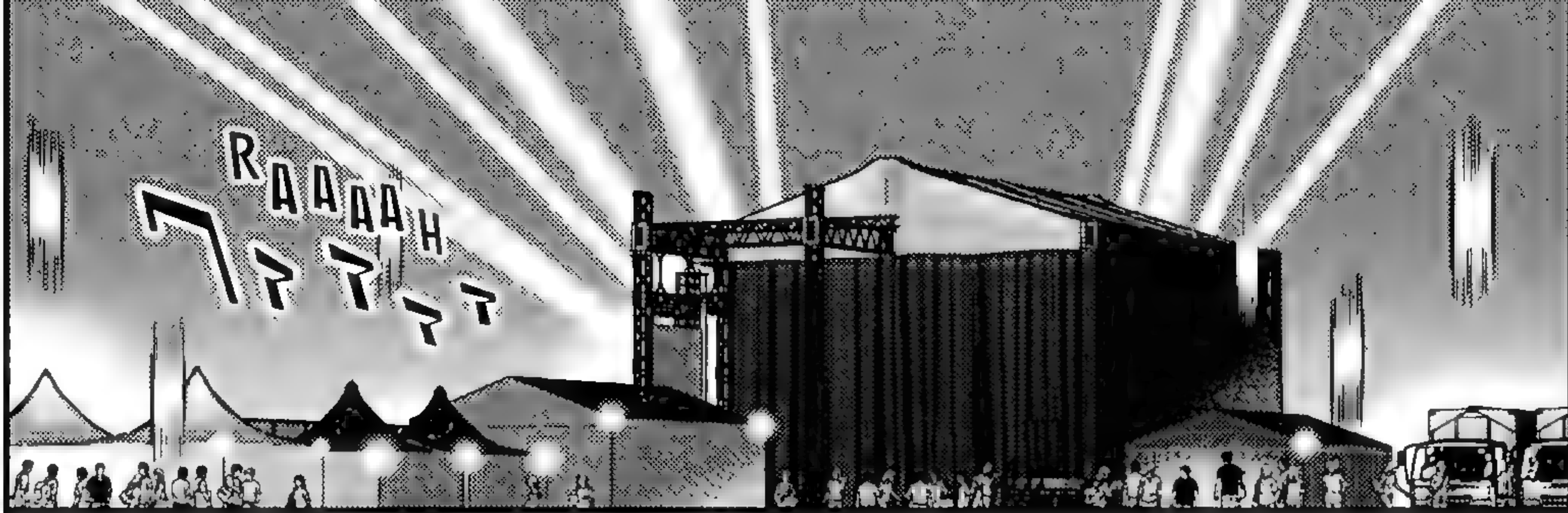
*Now, please
move on to
the next
stage.*

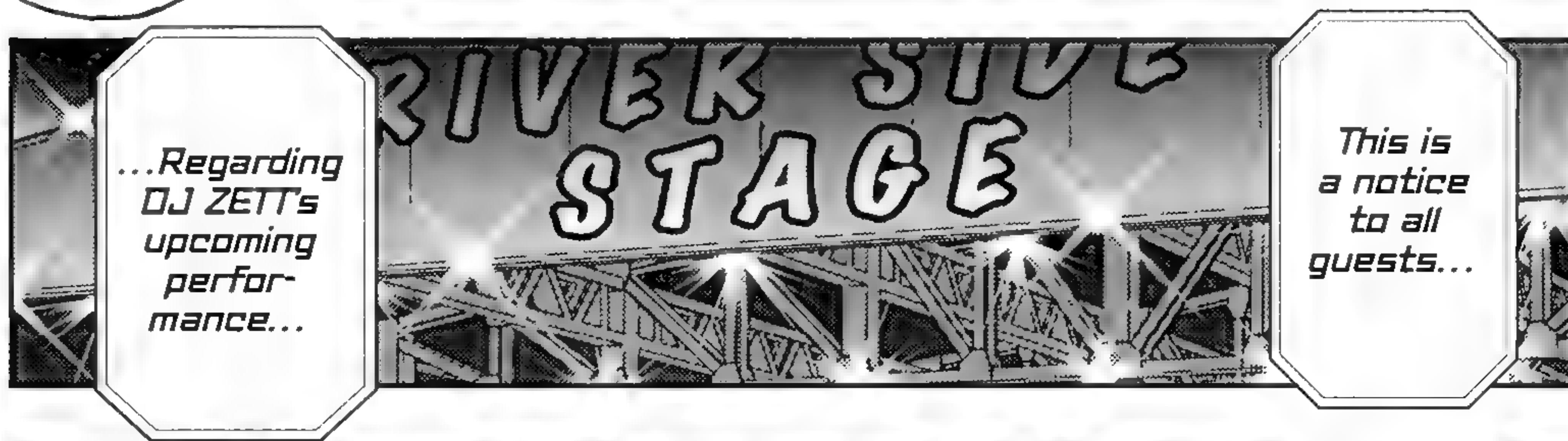
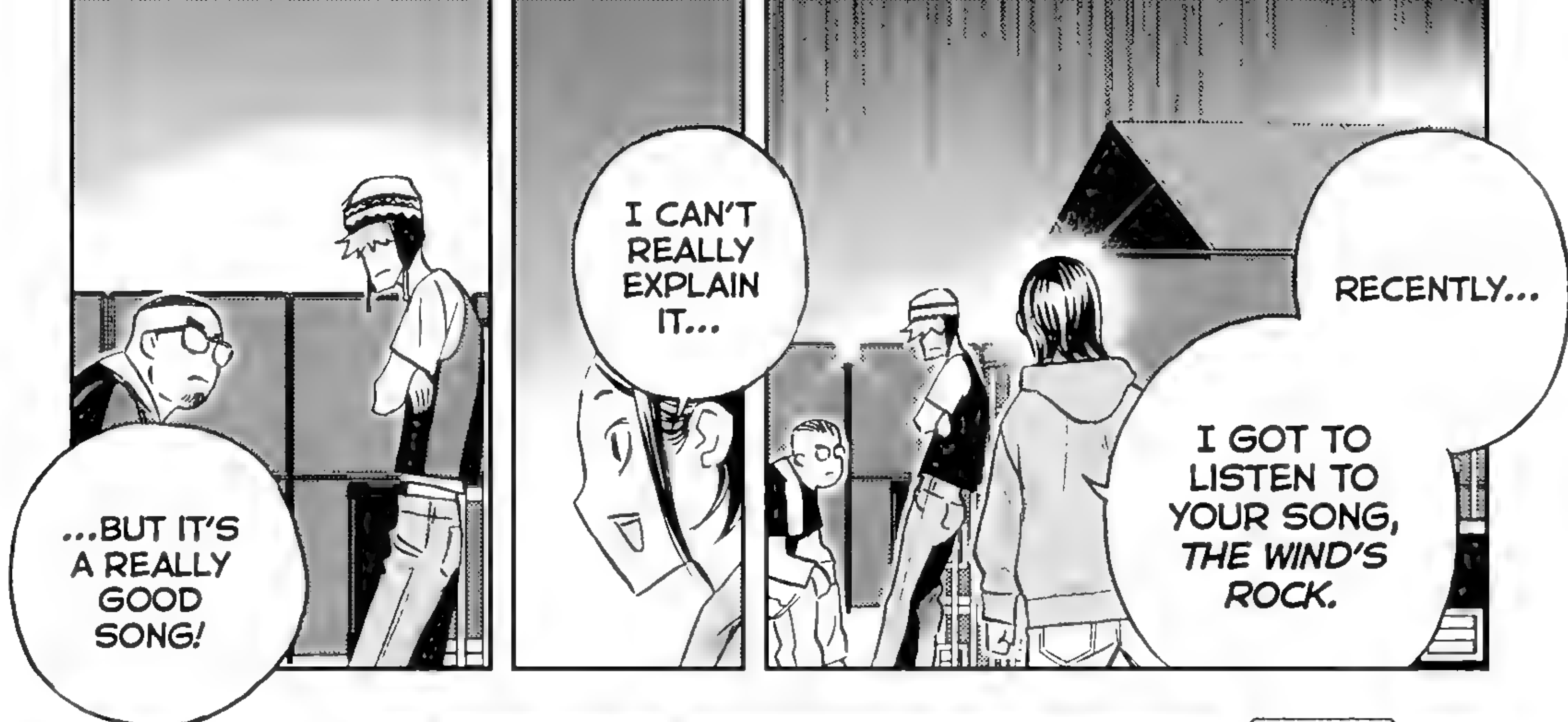
I'LL BE
HEADING THE
RIVERSIDE
STAGE.

RIVERSIDE
STAGE

CRYSTAL
STAGE









MAN, THEY'RE
HAVING A TON
OF ISSUES
THIS YEAR.

TRUE...

WHAT A
WASTE OF
TIME! LET'S
GO TO KEIJI'S
CONCERT
INSTEAD!



IT'S ALL
HAPPENING
JUST AS YOU
PREDICTED,
SIR.

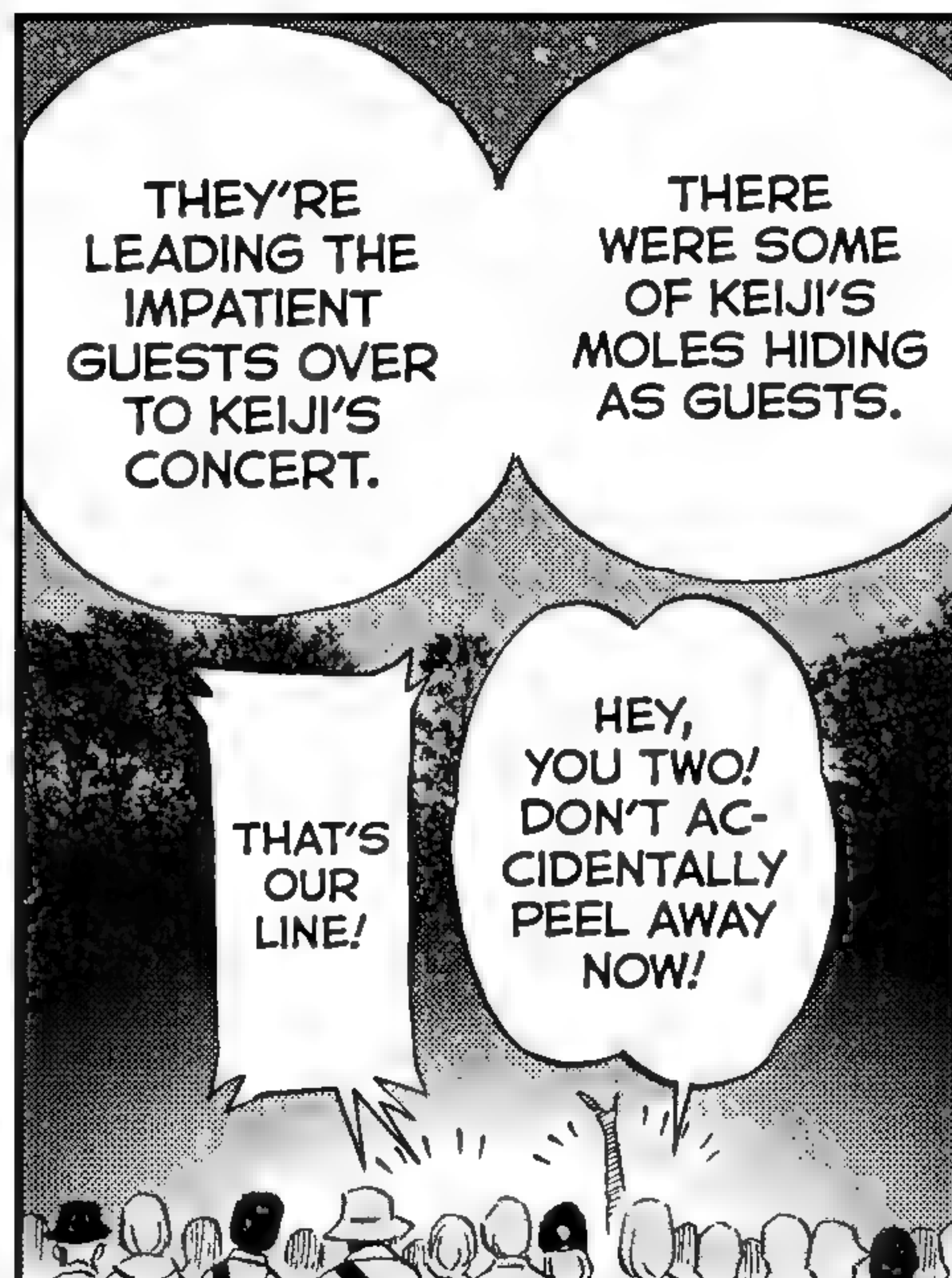
THE
POPULAR DJ'S
CONCERT IS
DELAYED DUE
TO TECHNICAL
ISSUES.

KEIJI'S
CONCERT IS
JUST ABOUT
TO START.
THE TIMING
WAS TOO
PERFECT...



...COME
BACK AND
MEET UP
WITH US,
GLASSES
BOY.

I SEE...
IN THAT
CASE...



THEY'RE
LEADING THE
IMPATIENT
GUESTS OVER
TO KEIJI'S
CONCERT.

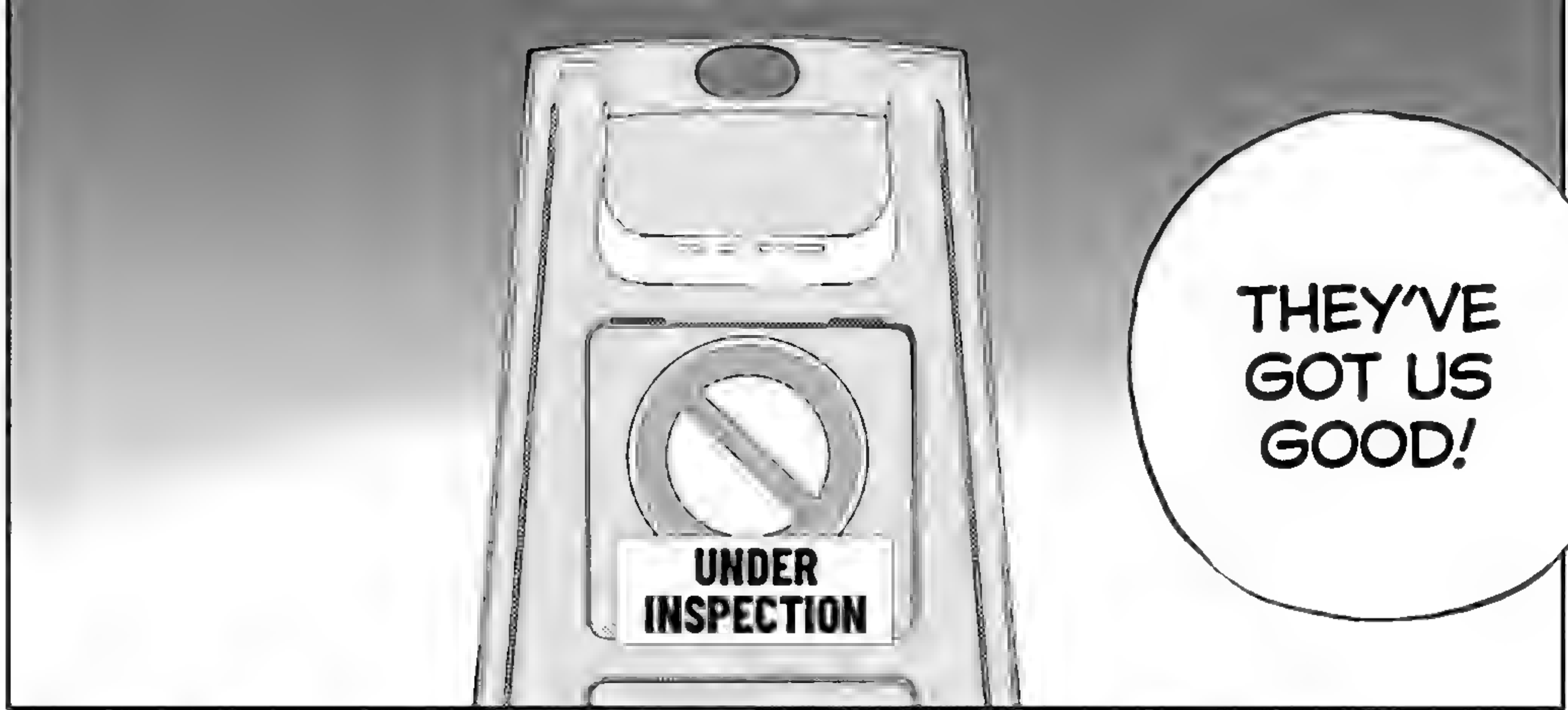
THERE
WERE SOME
OF KEIJI'S
MOLES HIDING
AS GUESTS.

THAT'S
OUR
LINE!

HEY,
YOU TWO!
DON'T AC-
CIDENTALLY
PEEL AWAY
NOW!



YESSIR!



THEY'VE
GOT US
GOOD!



...HAS BEEN
BLOCKED
OFF!

THE ONLY
BRIDGE
LEADING TO
THE GREEN
STAGE...



THERE'S
REALLY NO
OTHER WAY
TO GET
THERE?

BUT I
WANTED
TO GO
SEE EIKO!



I CAN SEE
SOME OF
HIS PEOPLE
AMONG THE
SECURITY
TEAM.

KEIJI
MUST BE
BEHIND
THIS...



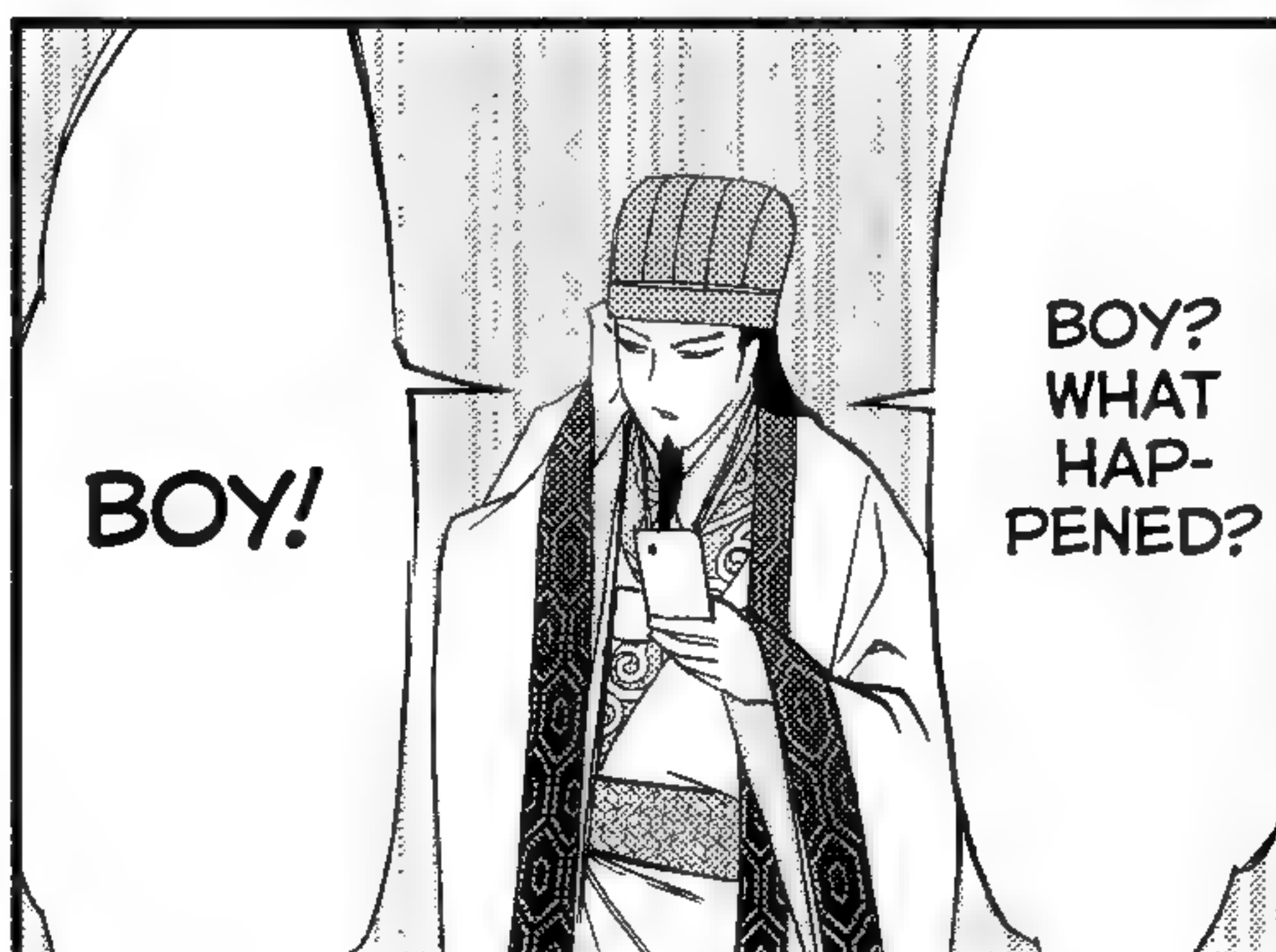
...BUT EFFECTIVE...

IT'S SIMPLE...



IF THEY BLOCK
OFF THE ONLY
ROAD TO THIS
STAGE, THEN,
IT PHYSICALLY
STOPS ANYONE
FROM GETTING
HERE...

KEIJI
MAEZONO...
HE REALLY
DID SEND
PEOPLE TO
SABOTAGE
US...



BOY!

BOY?
WHAT
HAP-
PENED?



||
DOOT

||
DOOT
DOOT



W
A
A
A
A
H
!!



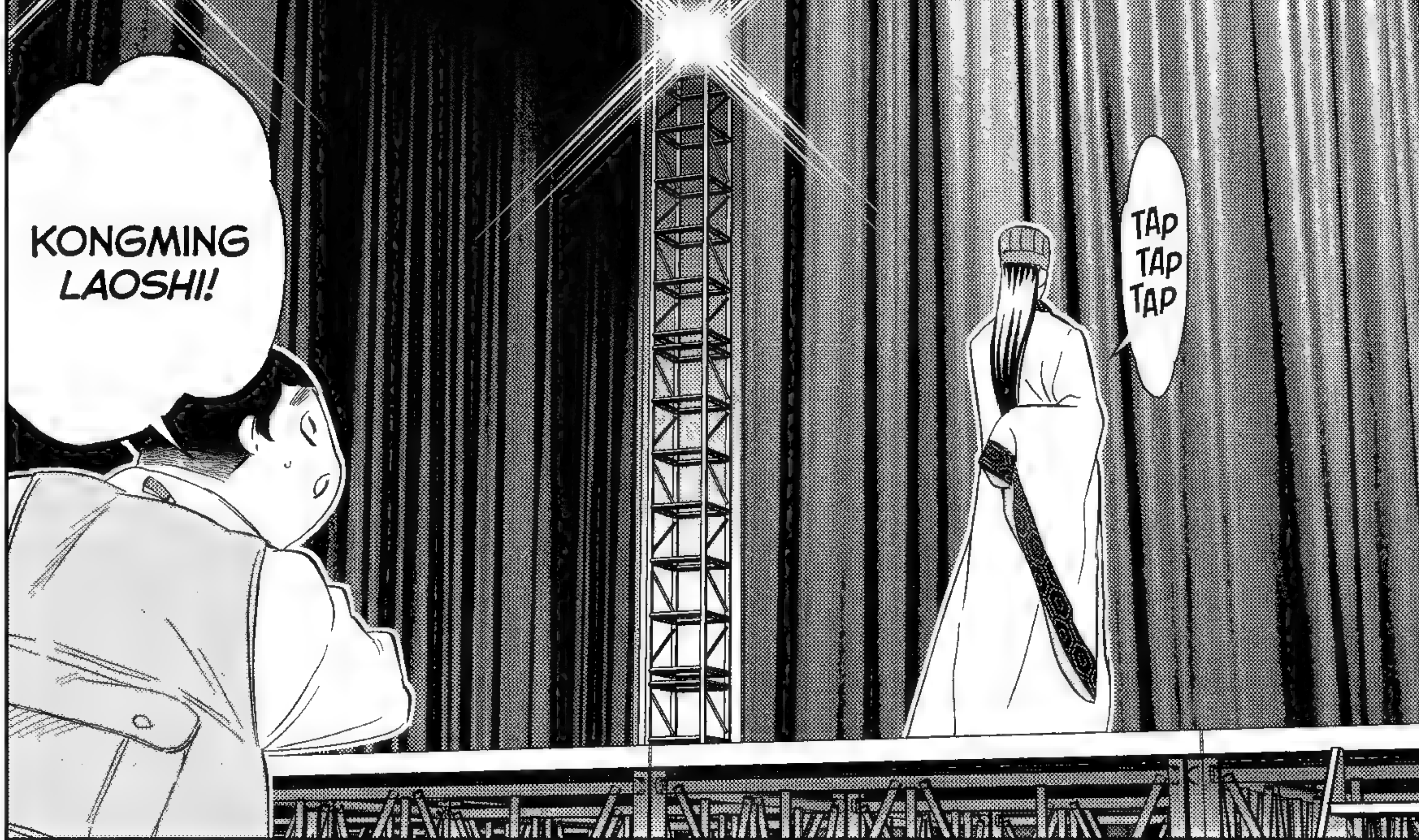
||
DOOT

||
DOOT

||
DOOT

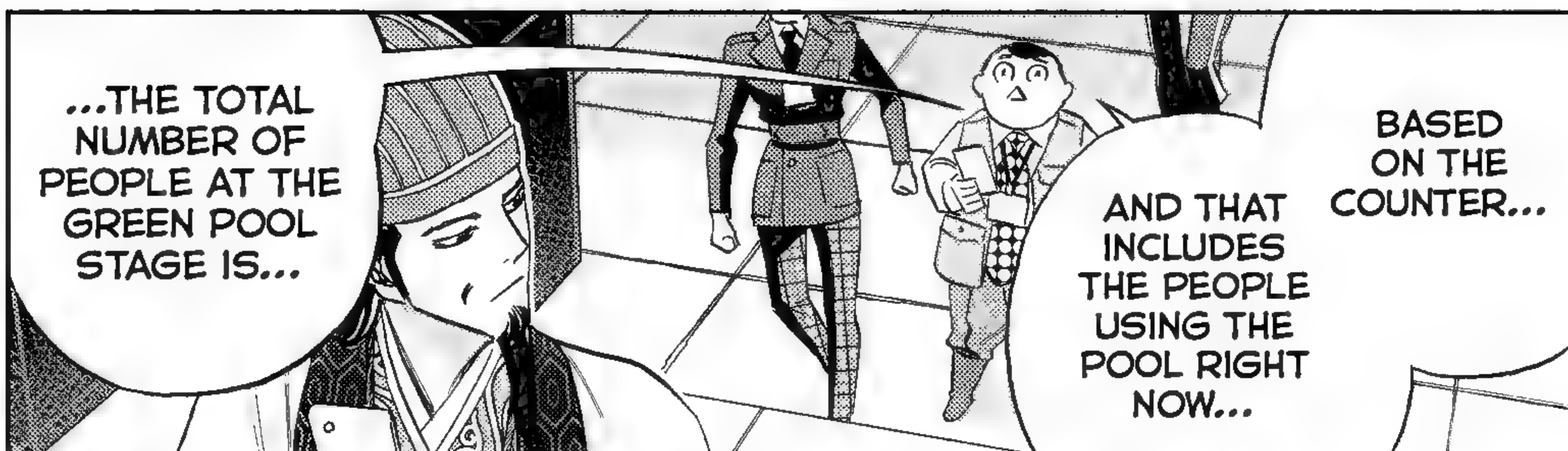






KONGMING
LAOSHI!!

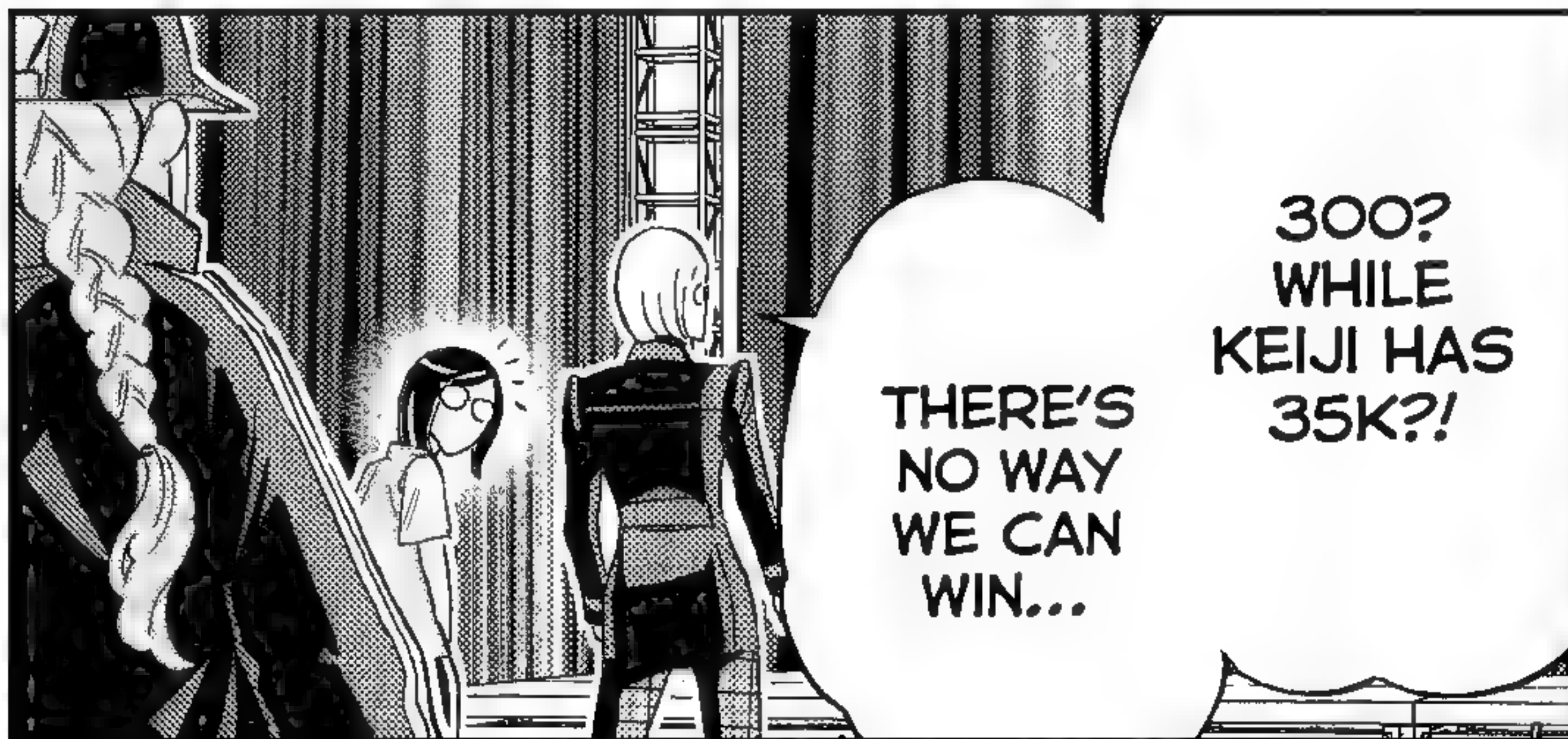
TAP
TAP
TAP



...THE TOTAL
NUMBER OF
PEOPLE AT THE
GREEN POOL
STAGE IS...

BASED
ON THE
COUNTER...

AND THAT
INCLUDES
THE PEOPLE
USING THE
POOL RIGHT
NOW...



THERE'S
NO WAY
WE CAN
WIN...

300?
WHILE
KEIJI HAS
35K?!

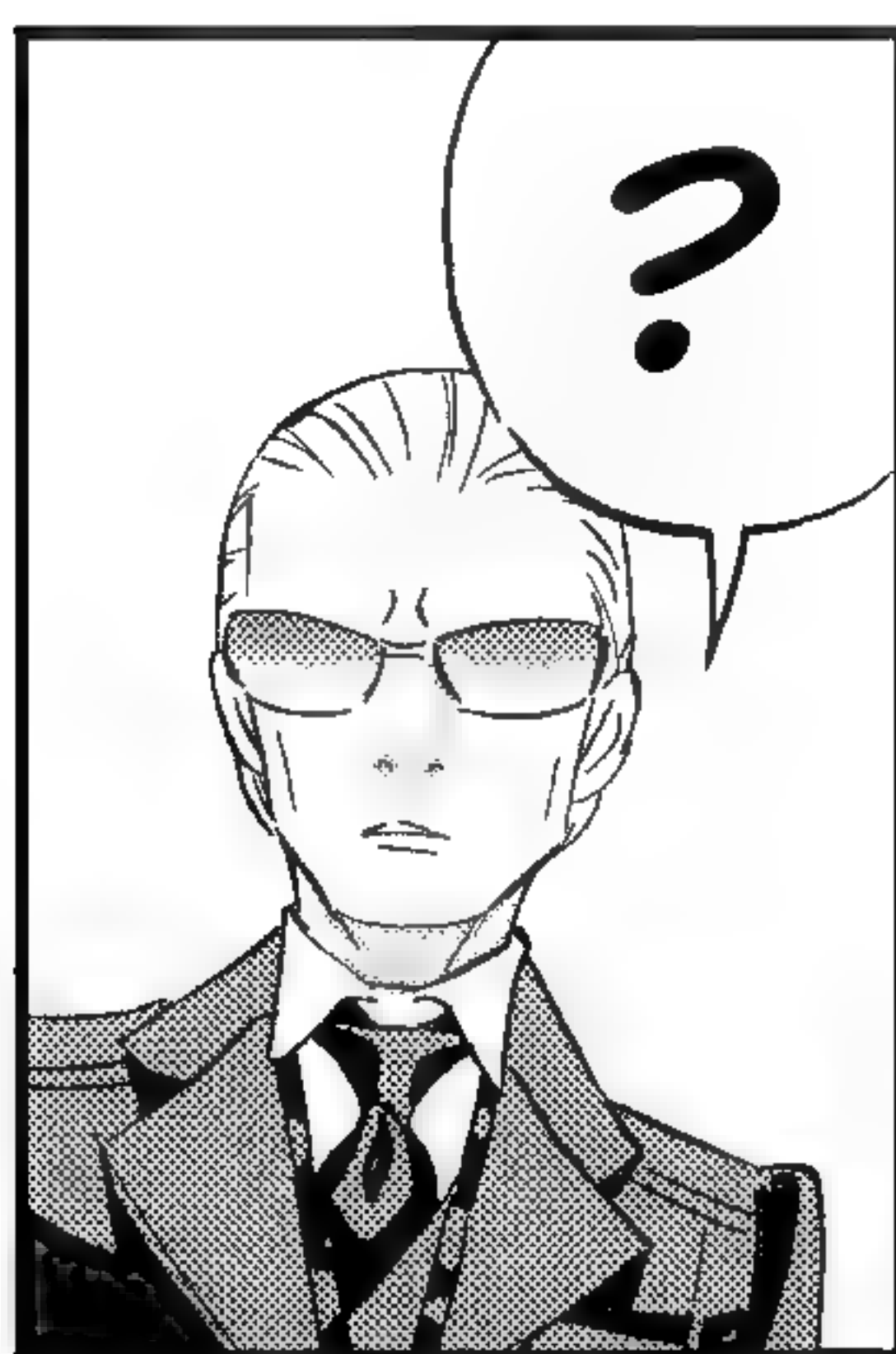
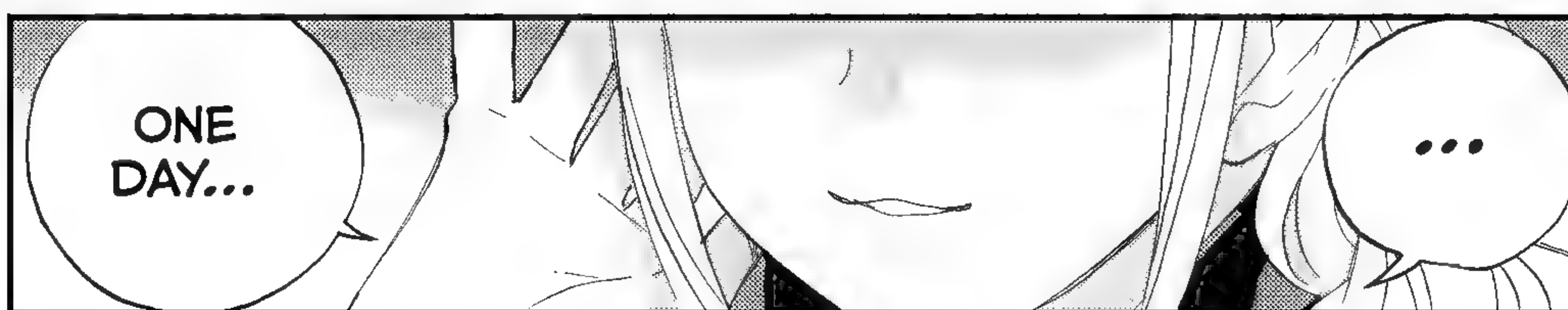


OH!

BOSS!



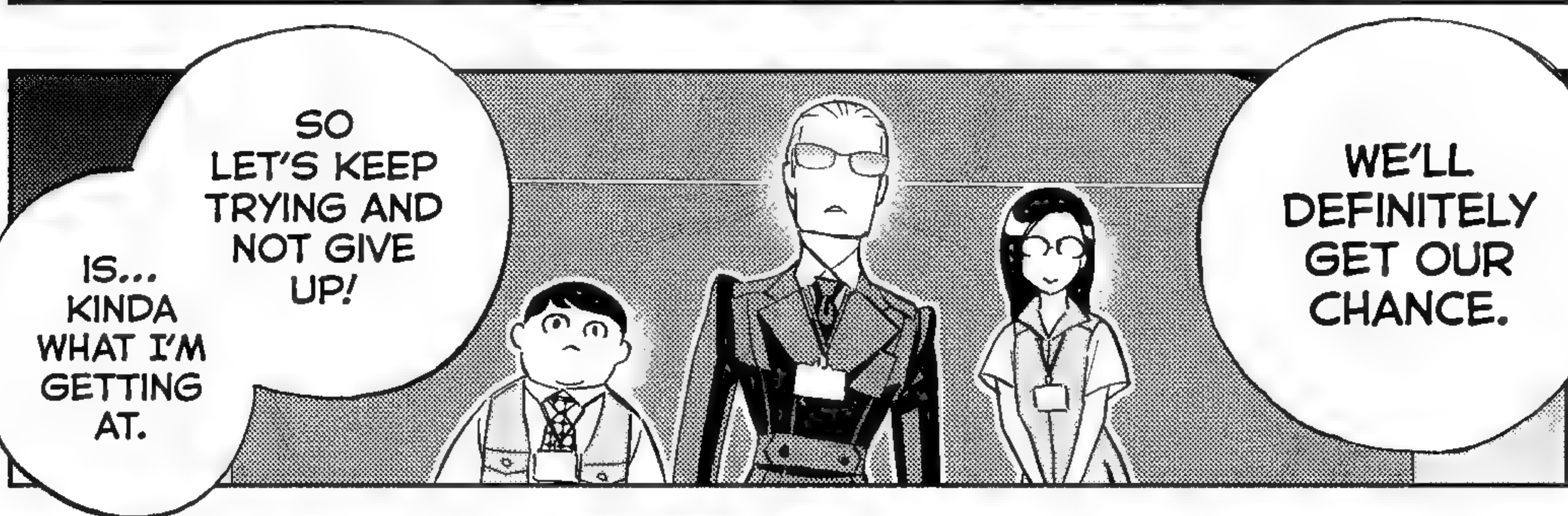
...ONLY
311.





NANAMIN
SHOWED
ME THE
SONG.

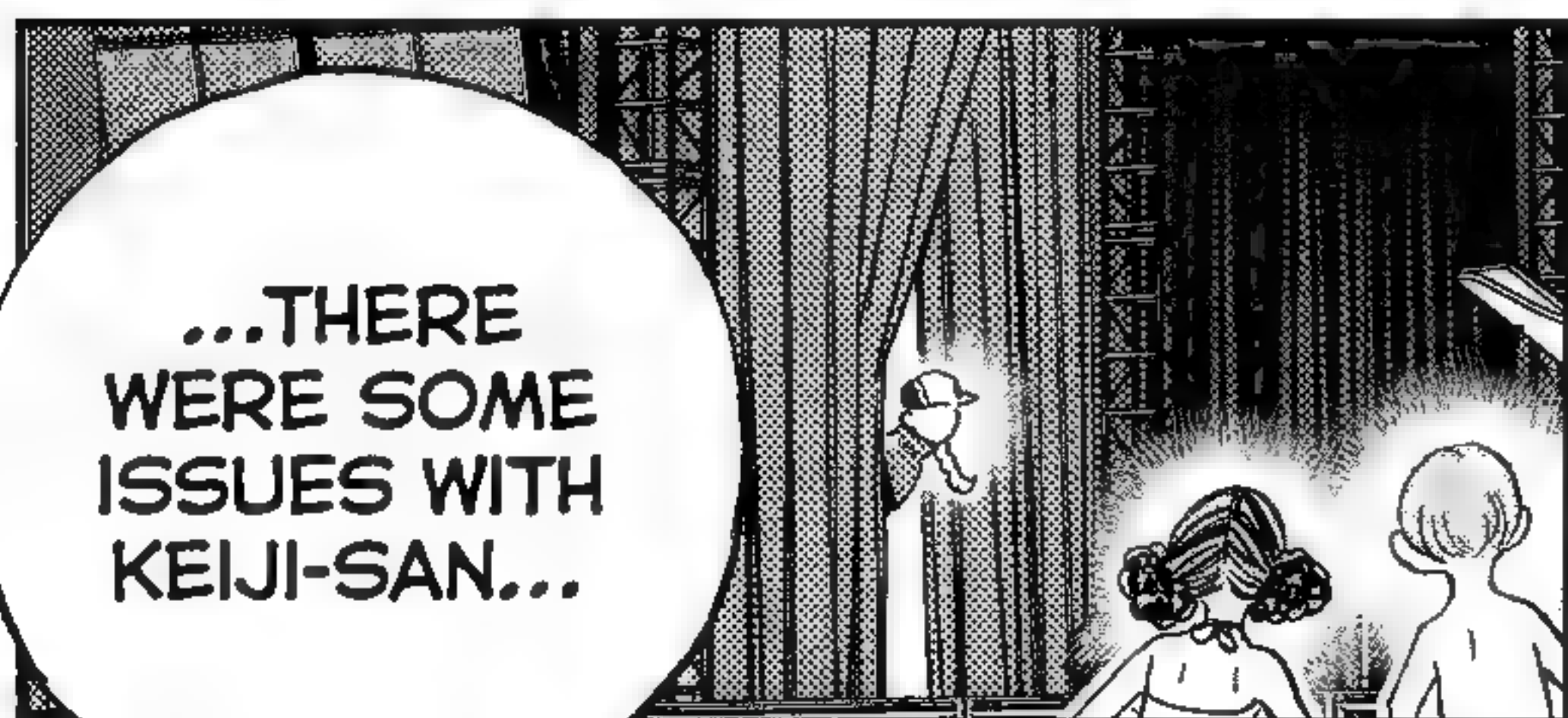
UHH...THAT'S
LYRICS FROM
EAST-SOUTH'S
THE WIND'S
ROCK.



SO
LET'S KEEP
TRYING AND
NOT GIVE
UP!

IS...
KINDA
WHAT I'M
GETTING
AT.

WE'LL
DEFINITELY
GET OUR
CHANCE.



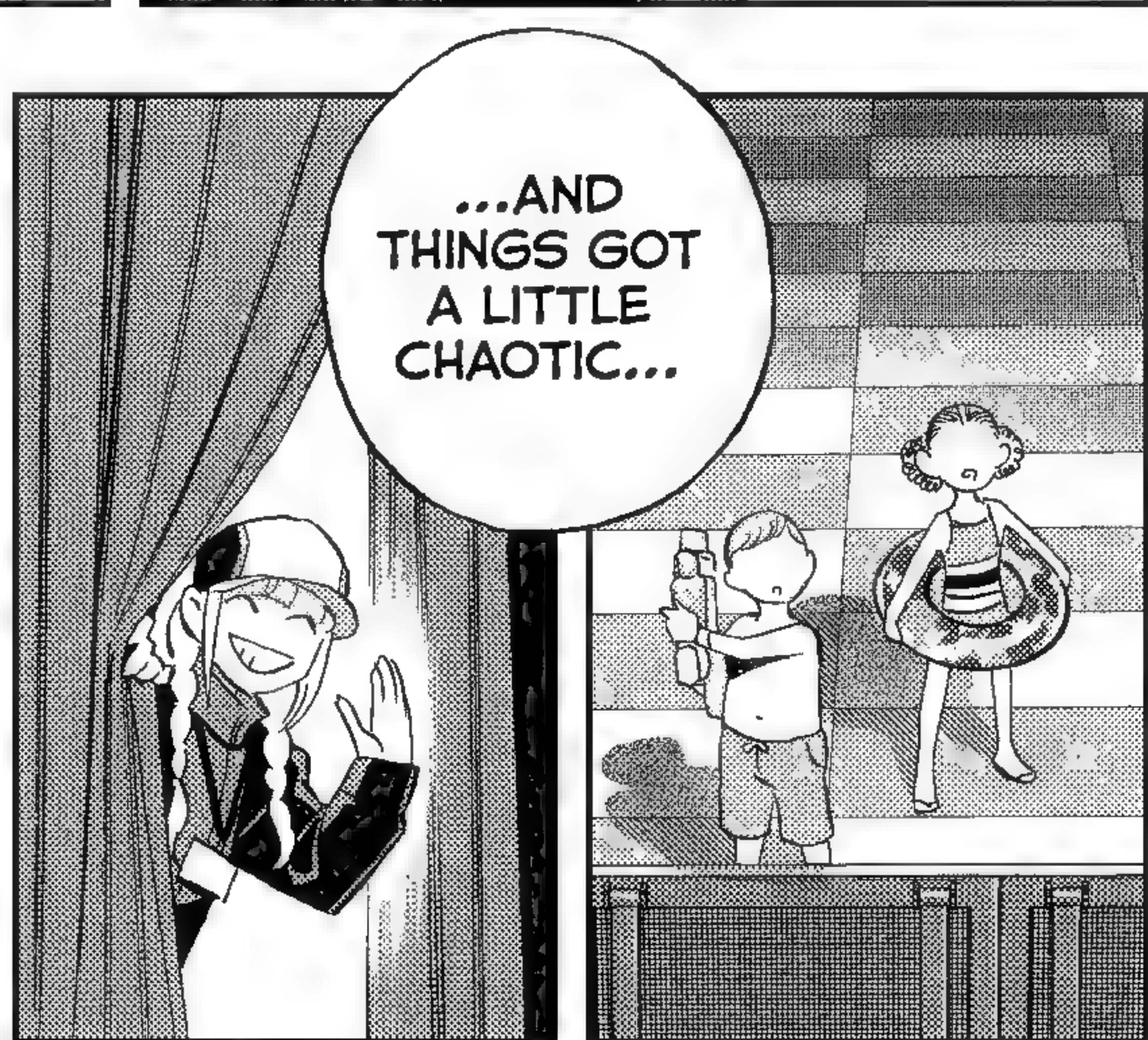
...THERE
WERE SOME
ISSUES WITH
KEIJI-SAN...



THIS IS
MY FIRST
SUMMER
SONIA...



...BUT
THANKS TO
THIS SONG,
I MANAGED
TO REMEM-
BER...



...AND
THINGS GOT
A LITTLE
CHAOTIC...

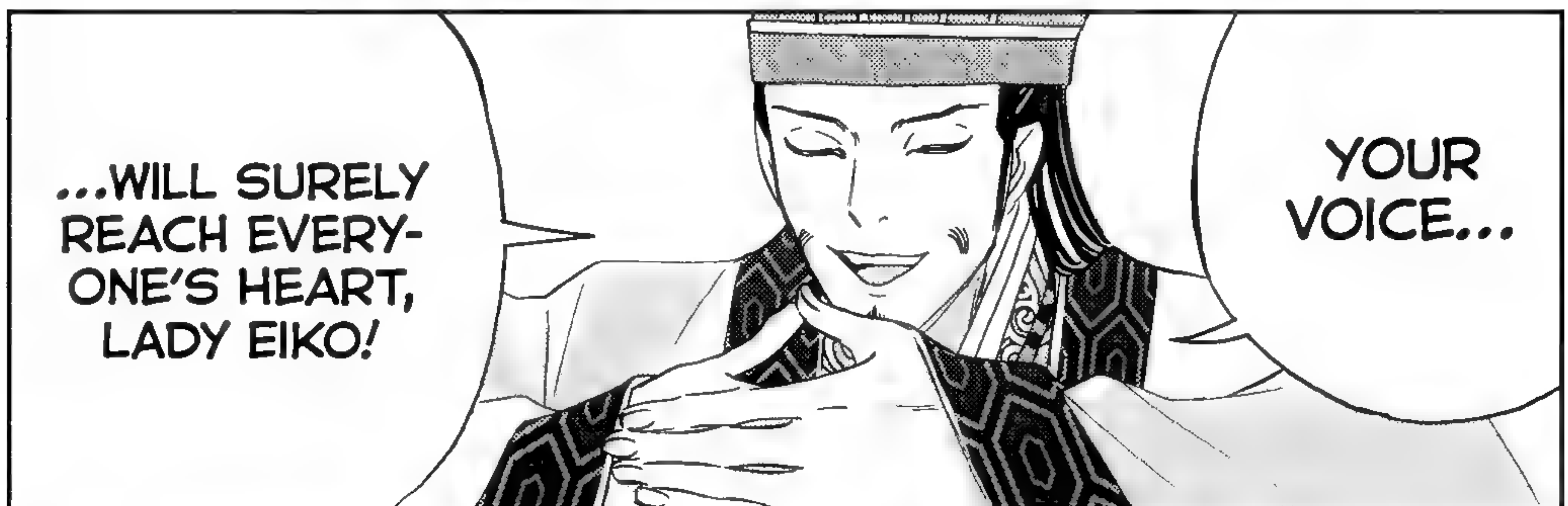


**...ALL I
WANT IS TO DO
EVERYTHING
I CAN TO LET
MY MUSIC...**



**...REACH
THE PEOPLE
AROUND ME!**





A close-up of a man with a crown and a slight smile.

...AT
SUMMER
SONIA.

A man in a hat and jacket stands in a room with a desk and a lamp.

TIME FOR
THE MASTER
PLAN TO UNITE
THE WORLD
IN PEACE,
VOL. 2...

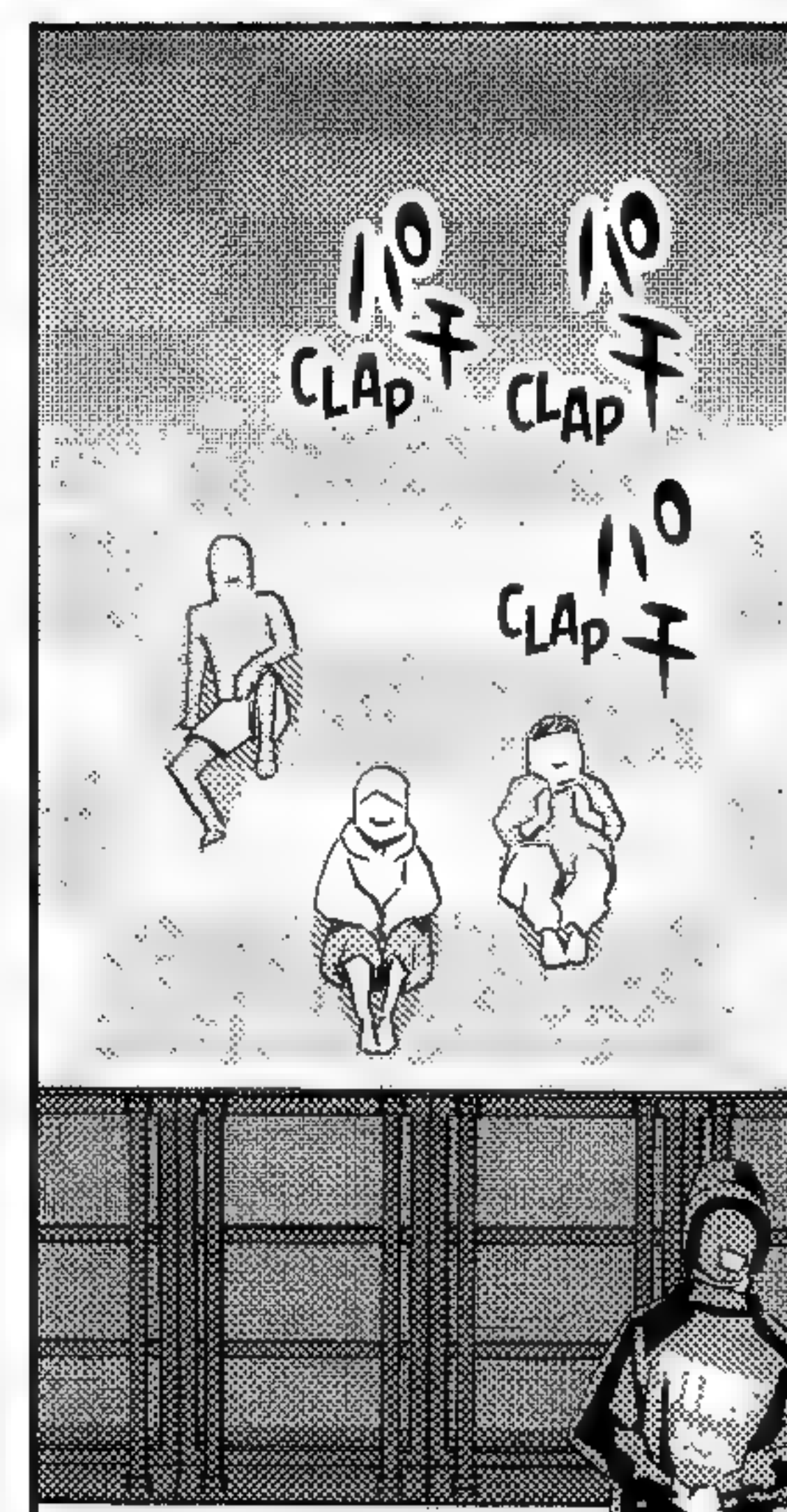
A woman in a band uniform with a braided ponytail, holding a microphone, with a drum set in the background.

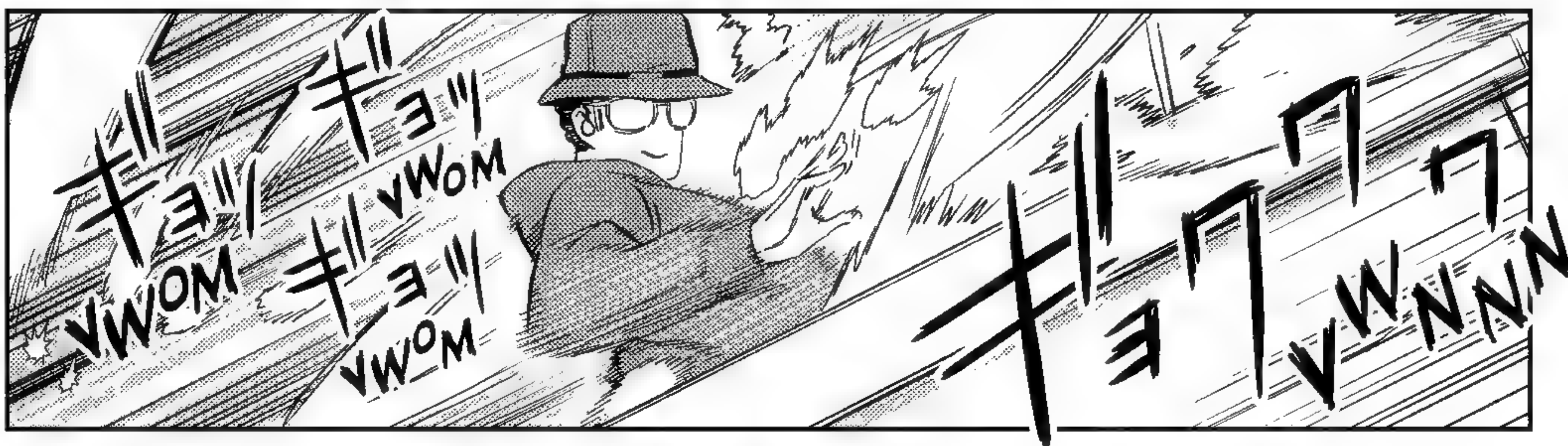
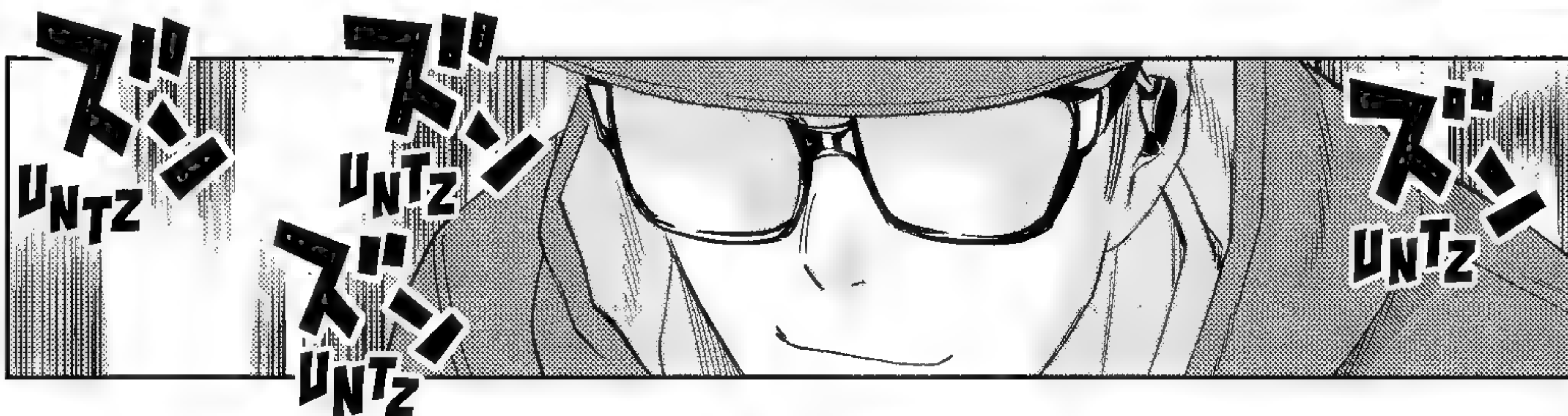
**TO ARMS,
MY MEN!
IT'S TIME
FOR WAR!**

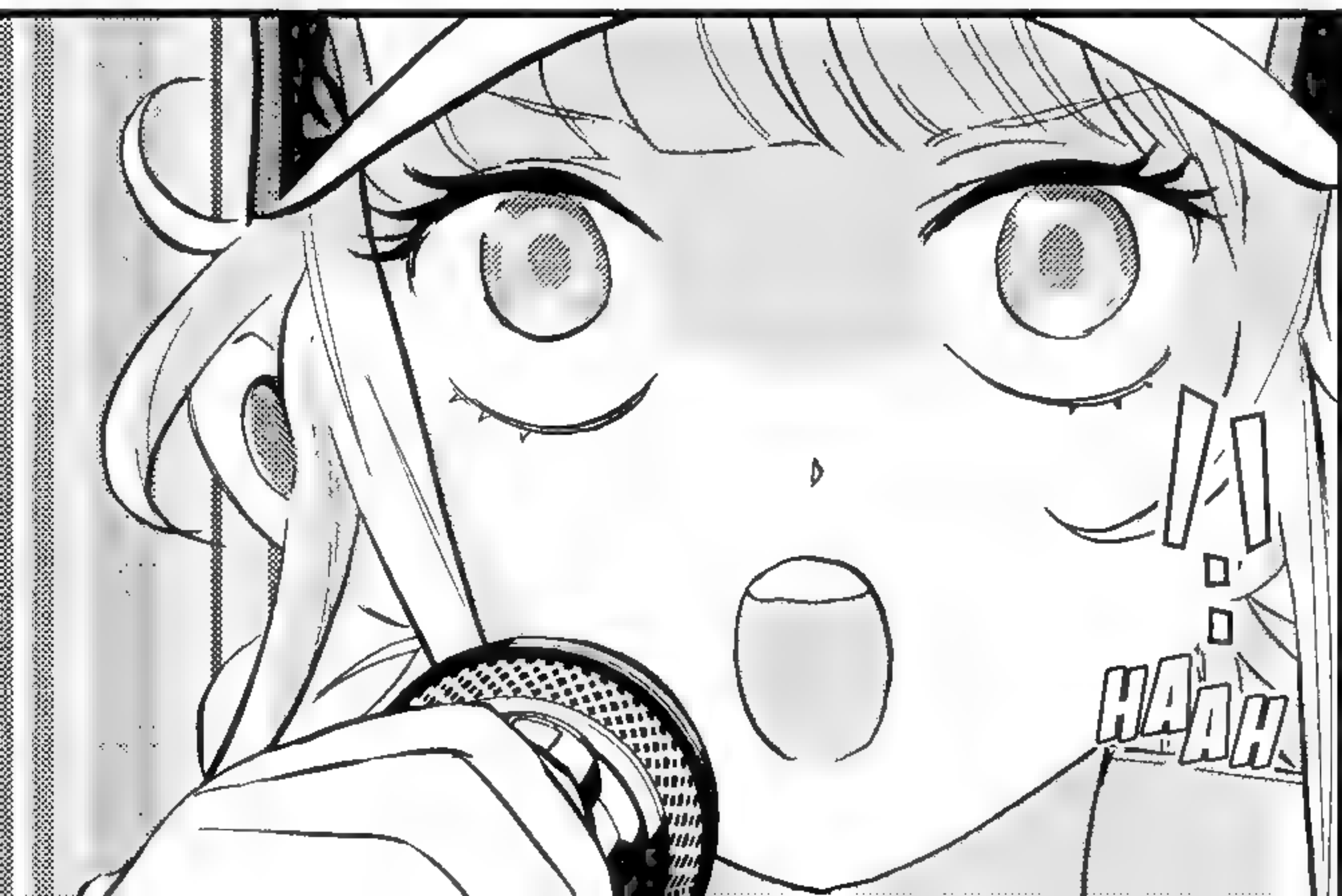
1971
Boy
Knows
Nothing!

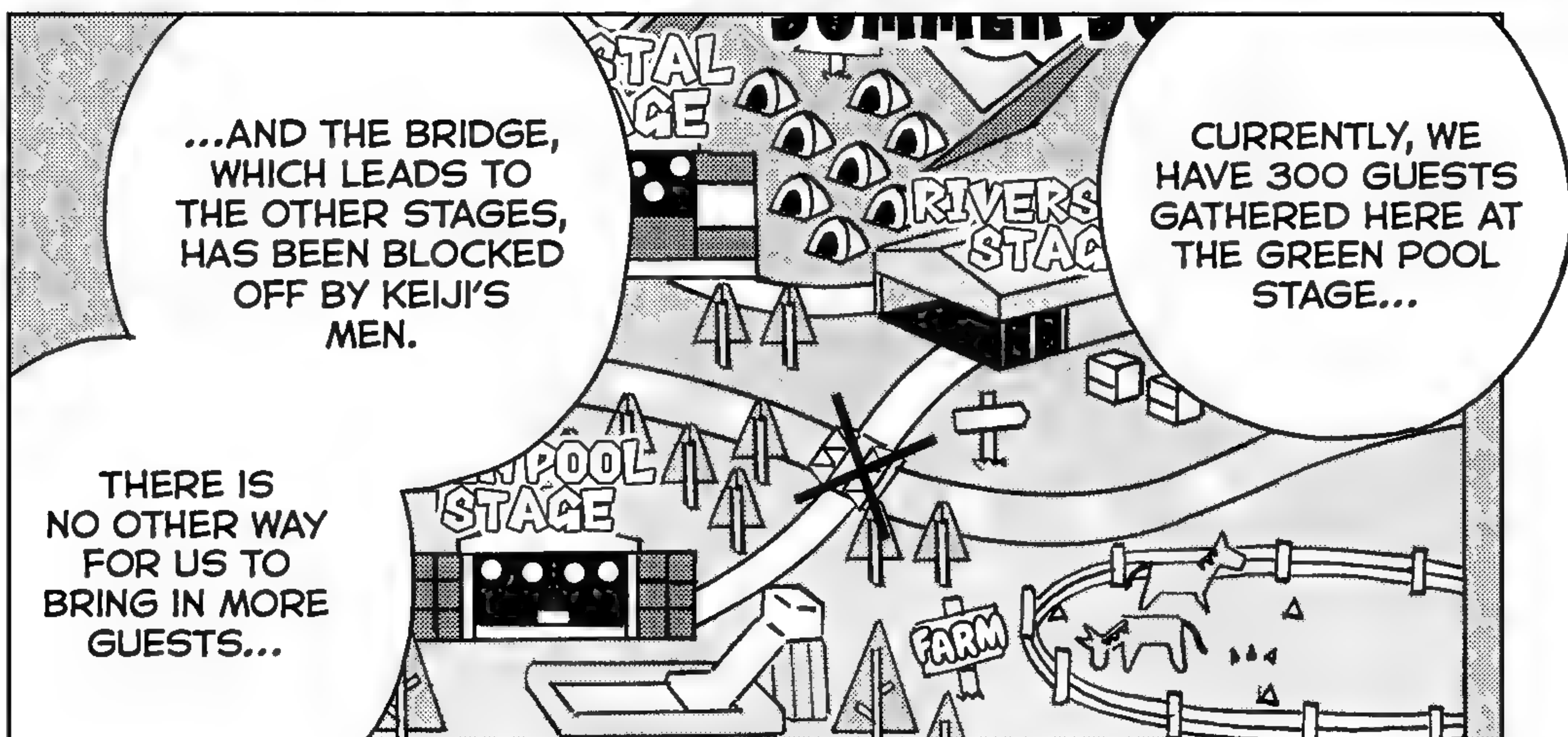
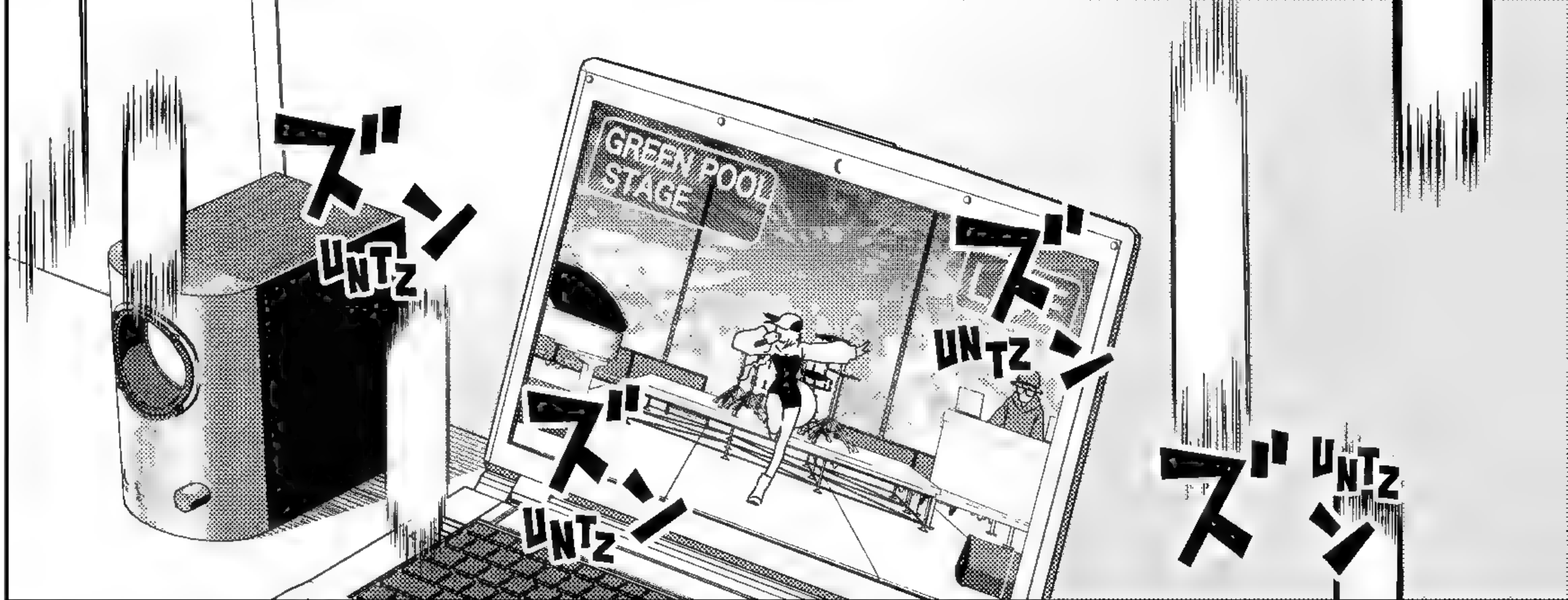


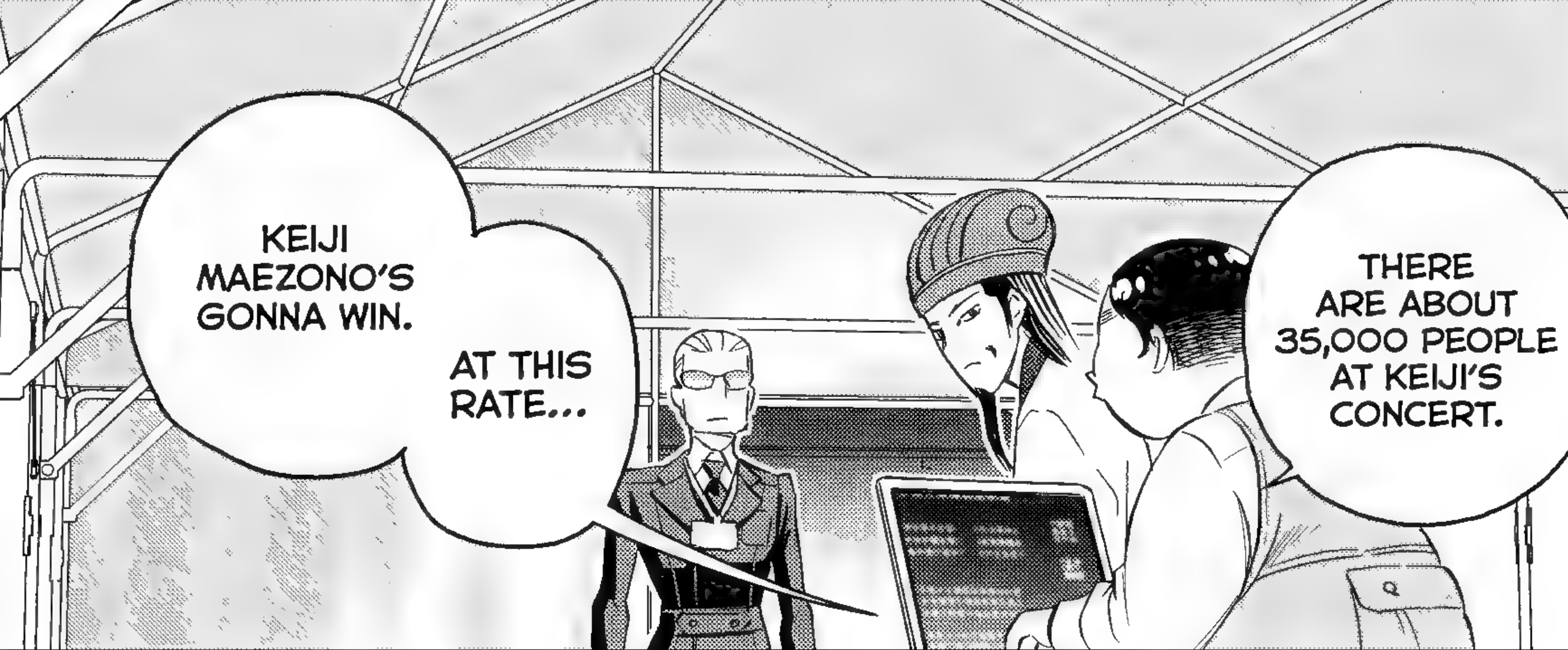
CHAPTER 90 Sealed Bridge







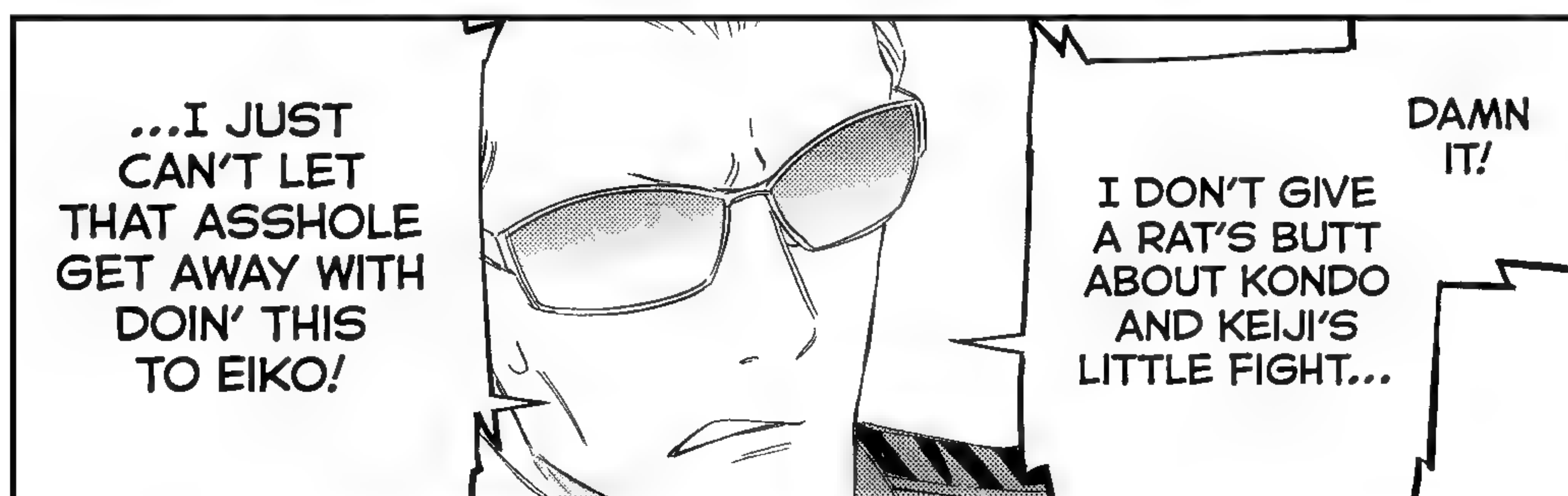




KEIJI
MAEZONO'S
GONNA WIN.

AT THIS
RATE...

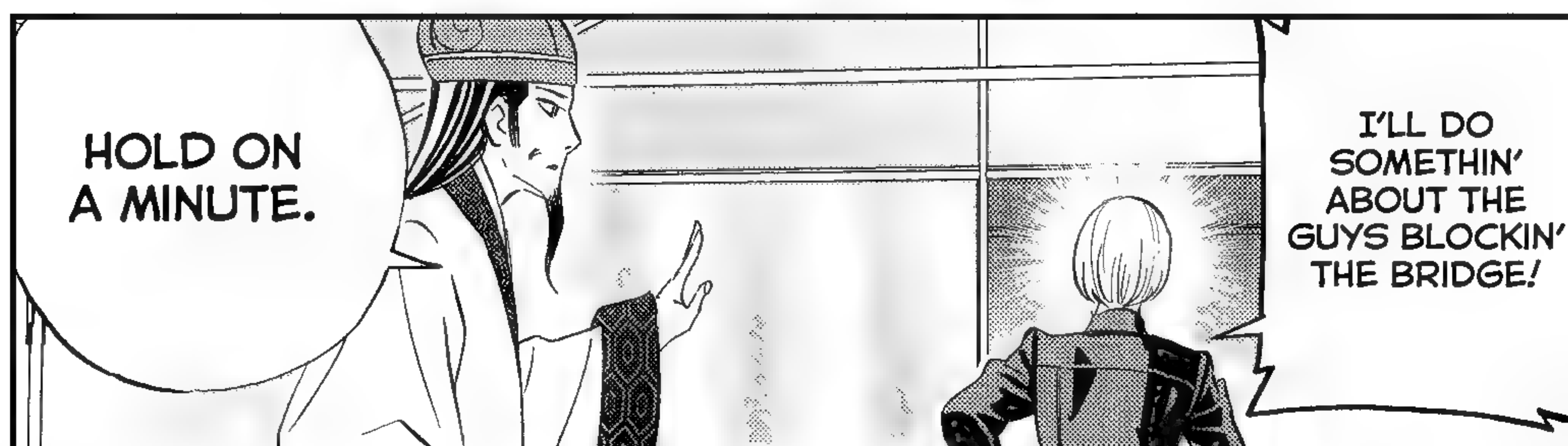
THERE
ARE ABOUT
35,000 PEOPLE
AT KEIJI'S
CONCERT.



...I JUST
CAN'T LET
THAT ASSHOLE
GET AWAY WITH
DOIN' THIS
TO EIKO!

DAMN
IT!

I DON'T GIVE
A RAT'S BUTT
ABOUT KONDO
AND KEIJI'S
LITTLE FIGHT...



HOLD ON
A MINUTE.

I'LL DO
SOMETHIN'
ABOUT THE
GUYS BLOCKIN'
THE BRIDGE!



THEN
WHAT'RE
WE SUP-
POSED
TO DO?!



ONE WRONG
MOVE, AND
THEY MAY EVEN
DESTROY THE
BRIDGE.

KEIJI'S SIDE HAS
ALREADY DECIDED
TO USE ANY MEANS
TO REACH HIS
GOALS. THEY CAN
SURELY STOMP
OUT ANY FURTHER
TROUBLE THAT
ARISES.

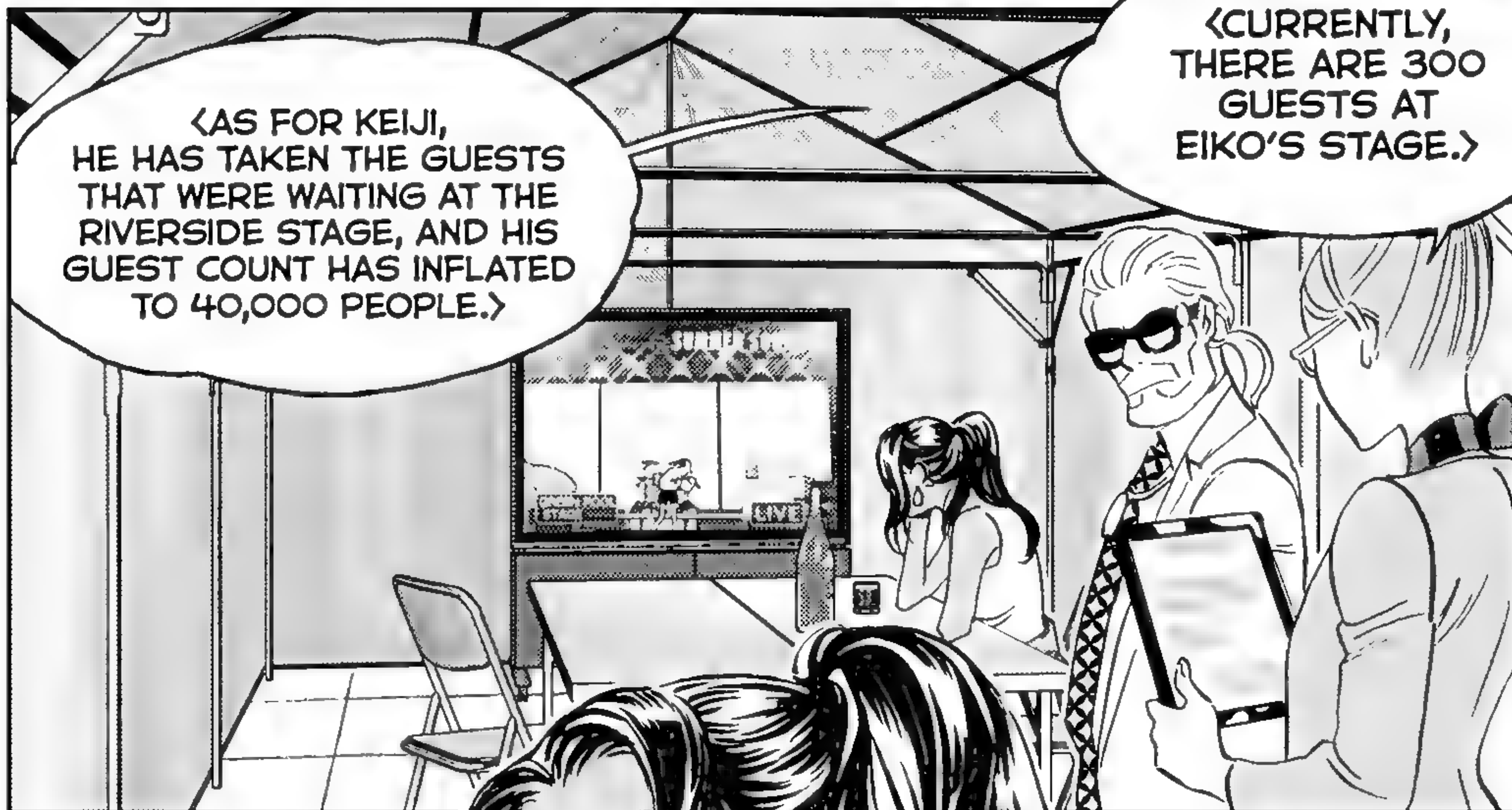
I HAVE
A PLAN.

YOU
NEED NOT
WORRY.



〈AS FOR KEIJI,
HE HAS TAKEN THE GUESTS
THAT WERE WAITING AT THE
RIVERSIDE STAGE, AND HIS
GUEST COUNT HAS INFLATED
TO 40,000 PEOPLE.〉

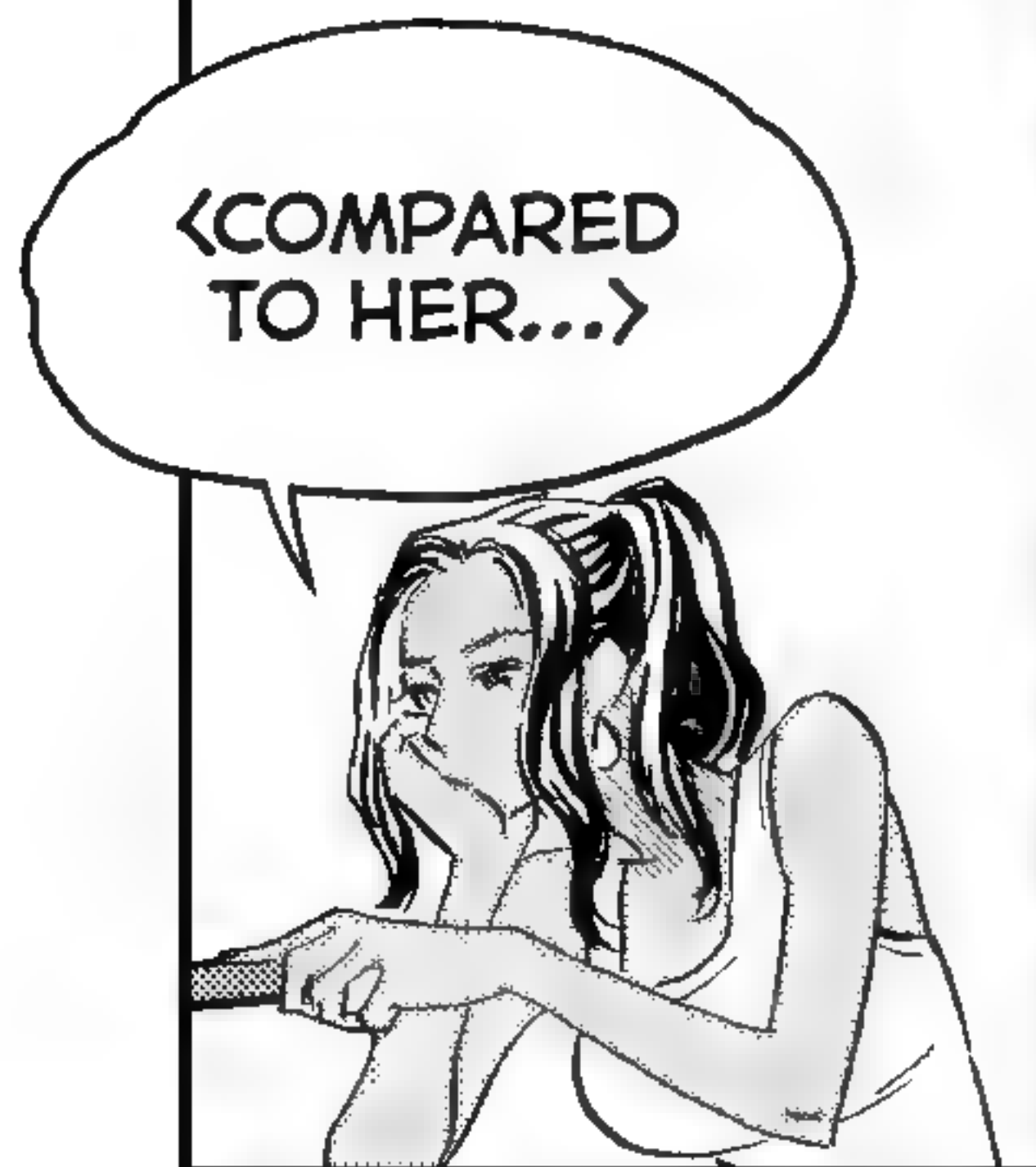
〈CURRENTLY,
THERE ARE 300
GUESTS AT
EIKO'S STAGE.〉



〈...BUT THAT
DOESN'T MEAN
HE'S ACTUALLY
THAT GOOD.〉

〈THOSE
ARE SOME BIG
NUMBERS...〉



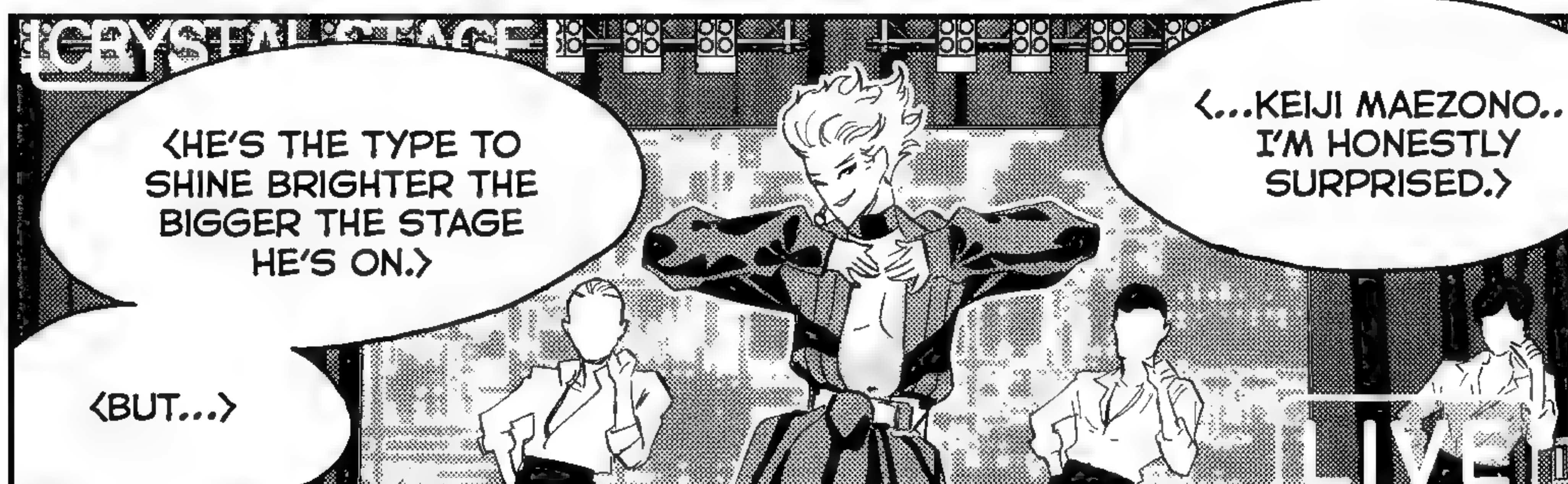


〈COMPARED
TO HER...〉



〈SHE'S PROBABLY
NOT USED TO BEING
ON A BIG STAGE.〉

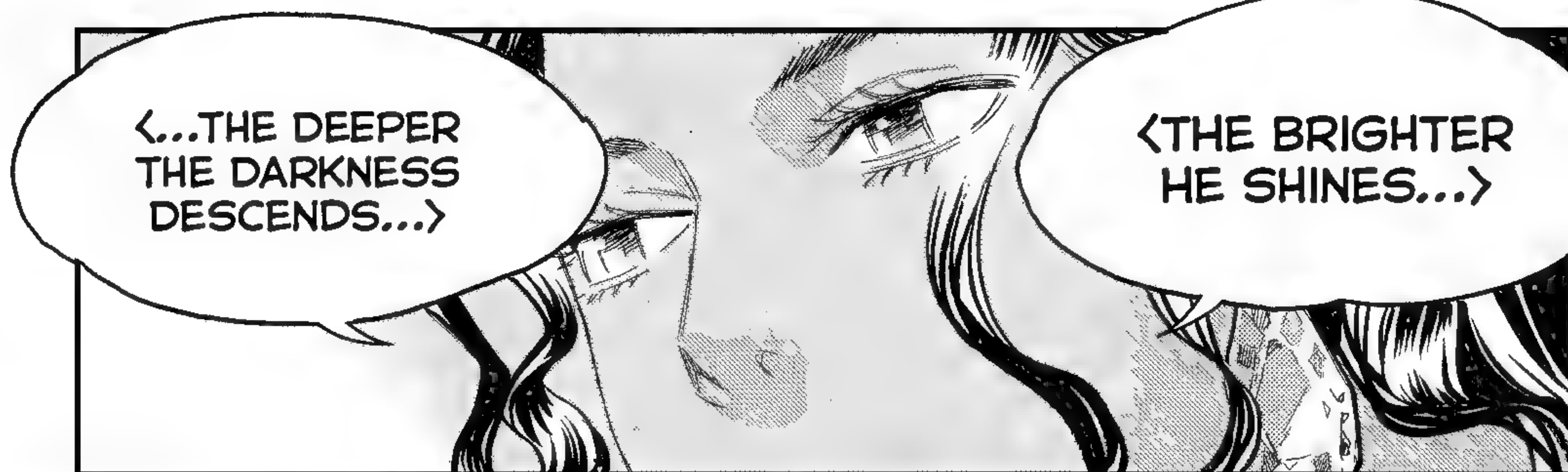
〈EIKO...SHE'S NOT
BAD, BUT SHE'S
STILL STIFF.〉



〈HE'S THE TYPE TO
SHINE BRIGHTER THE
BIGGER THE STAGE
HE'S ON.〉

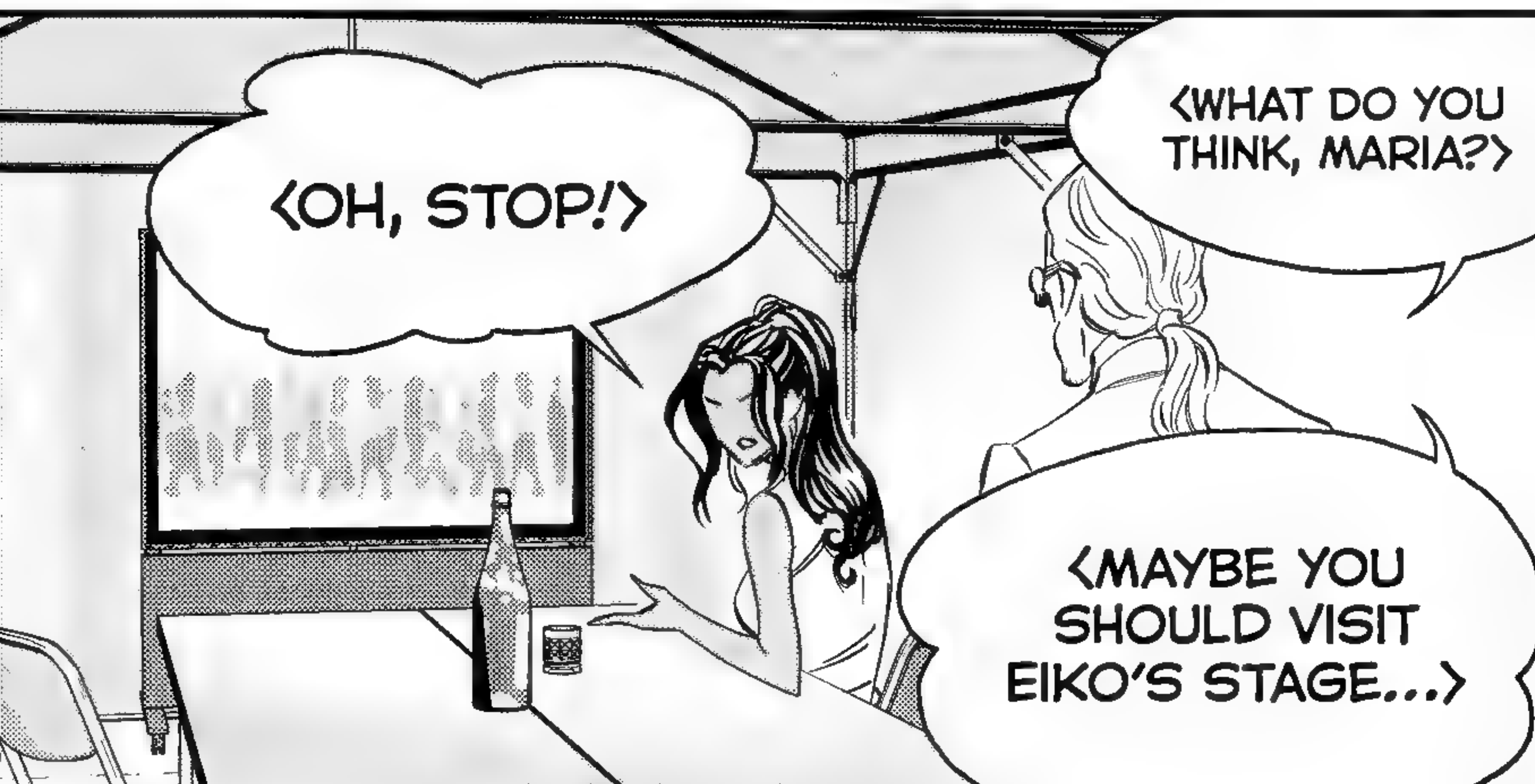
〈...KEIJI MAEZONO...
I'M HONESTLY
SURPRISED.〉

〈BUT...〉



〈...THE DEEPER
THE DARKNESS
DESCENDS...〉

〈THE BRIGHTER
HE SHINES...〉



〈OH, STOP!〉

〈WHAT DO YOU
THINK, MARIA?〉

〈MAYBE YOU
SHOULD VISIT
EIKO'S STAGE...〉



...

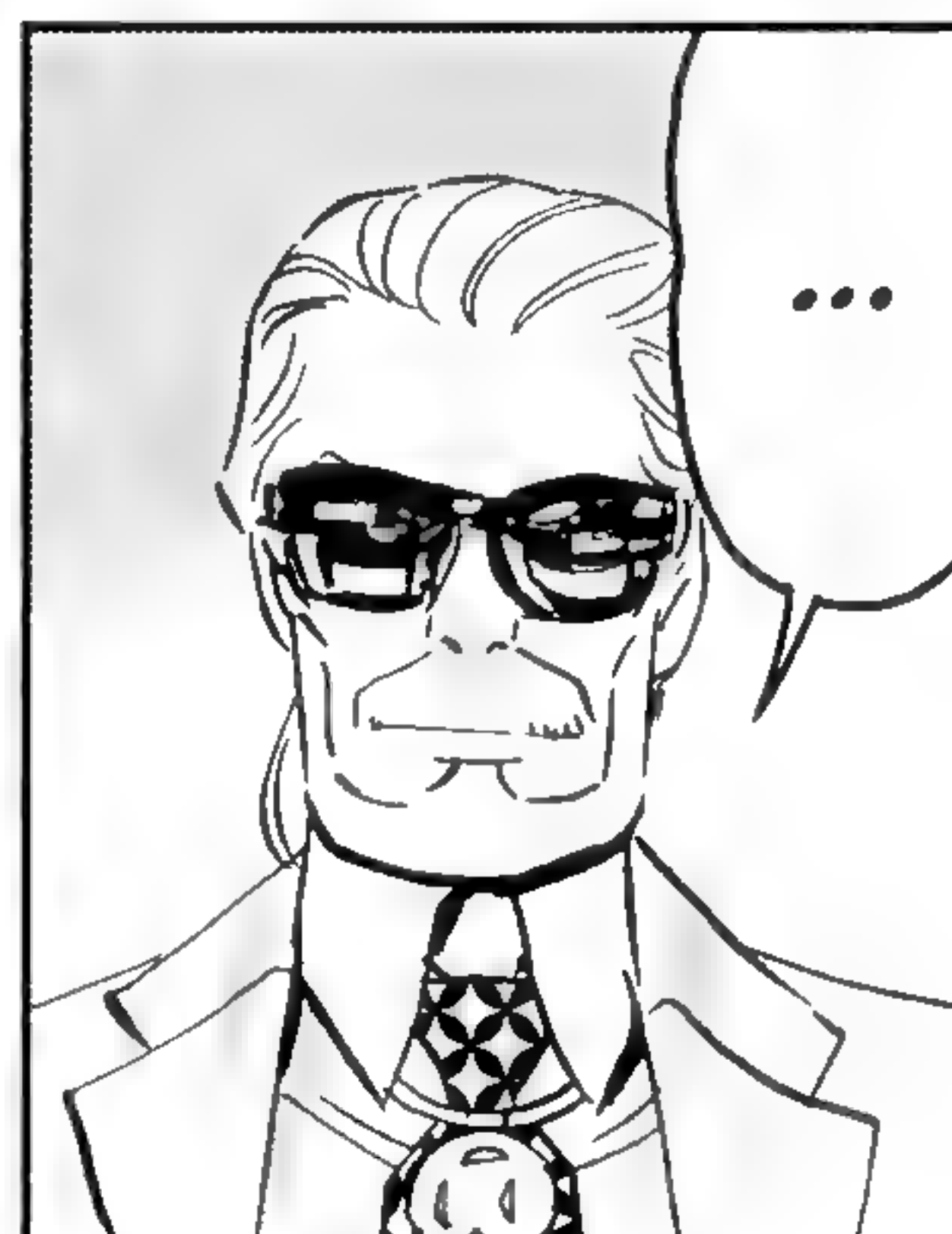
〈I'LL GO
WHEREVER
I WANT!〉

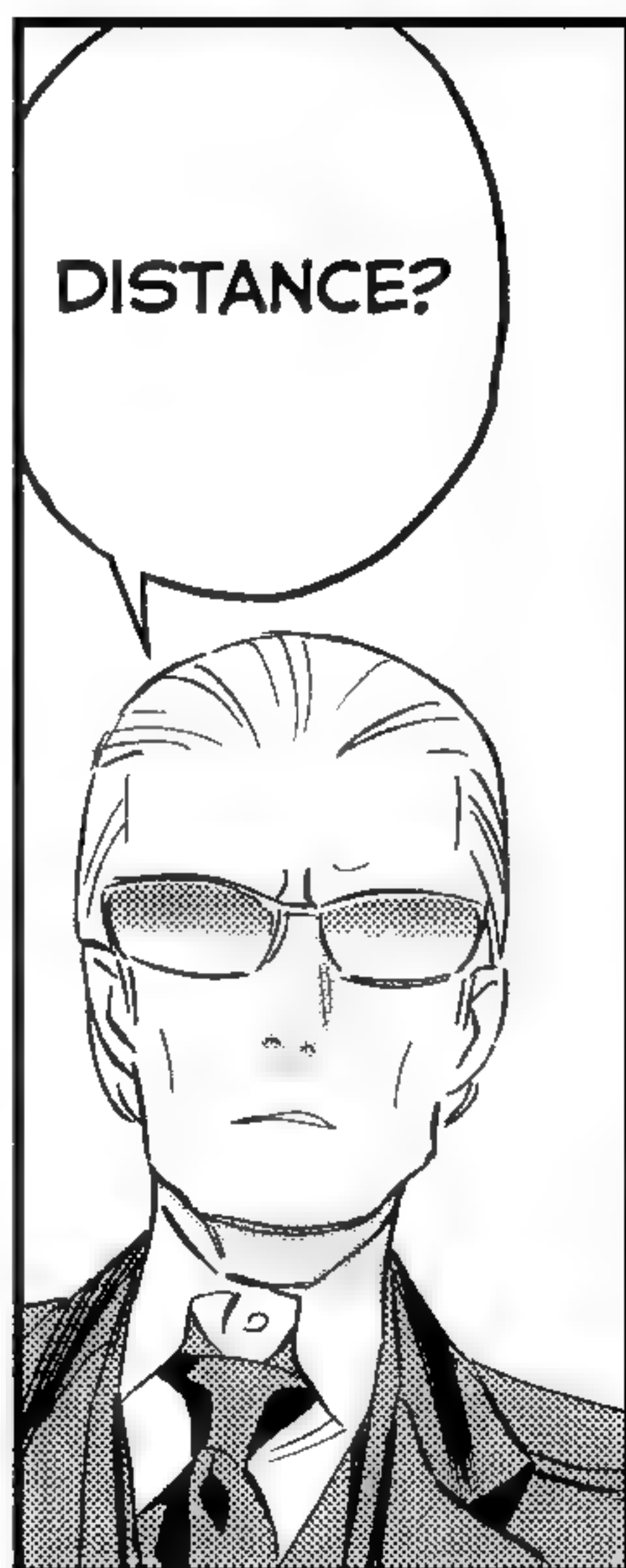
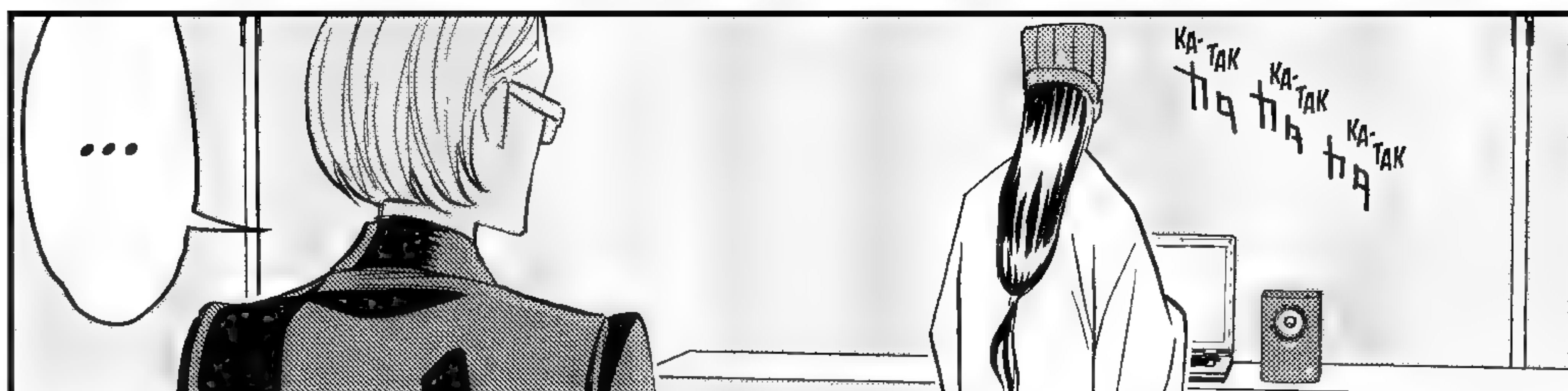
〈I'M NOT
ANYONE'S
TROPHY.〉



〈...I'LL KNOW
WHERE I SHOULD
GO!〉

〈WHEN THE
TIME COMES...〉







BUT IF THE
SITUATION
CHANGES, WE
MAY ALSO BE
FORCED TO
MOVE.

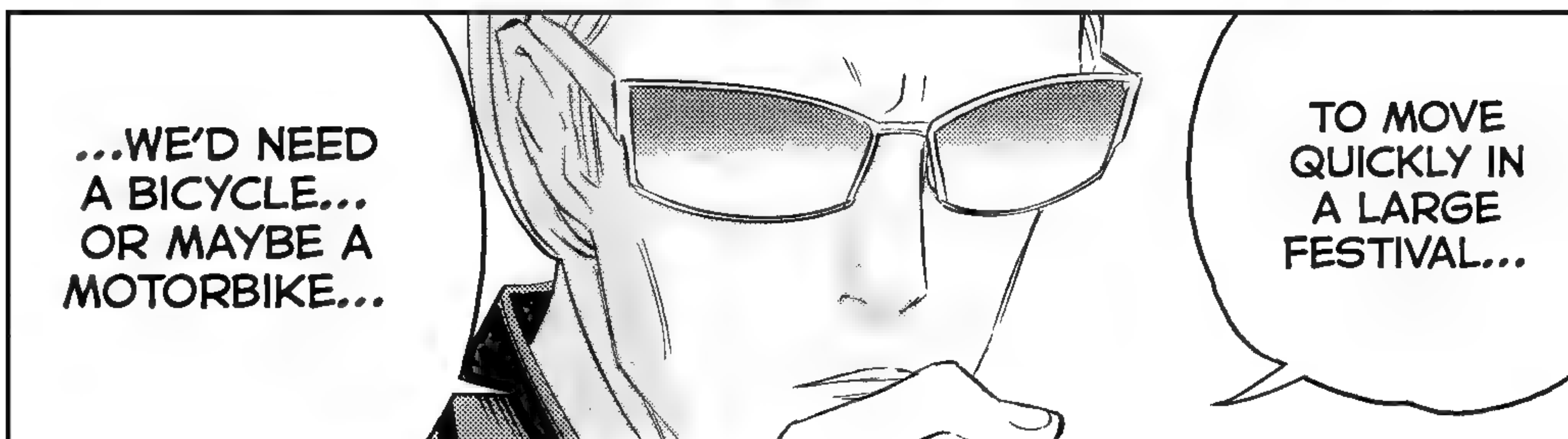
MY STRATEGY
IS IN PLACE.



MY
STRATEGY
WILL RELY
ON HOW
EFFECTIVELY
WE CAN
RELOCATE.

THE SUMMER
SONIA FESTIVAL
GROUNDS ARE
LARGE.

THUS, THE
PROBLEM IS
THE DISTANCE
WE MUST
TRAVEL.



...WE'D NEED
A BICYCLE...
OR MAYBE A
MOTORBIKE...

TO MOVE
QUICKLY IN
A LARGE
FESTIVAL...



PLEASE
WAIT.

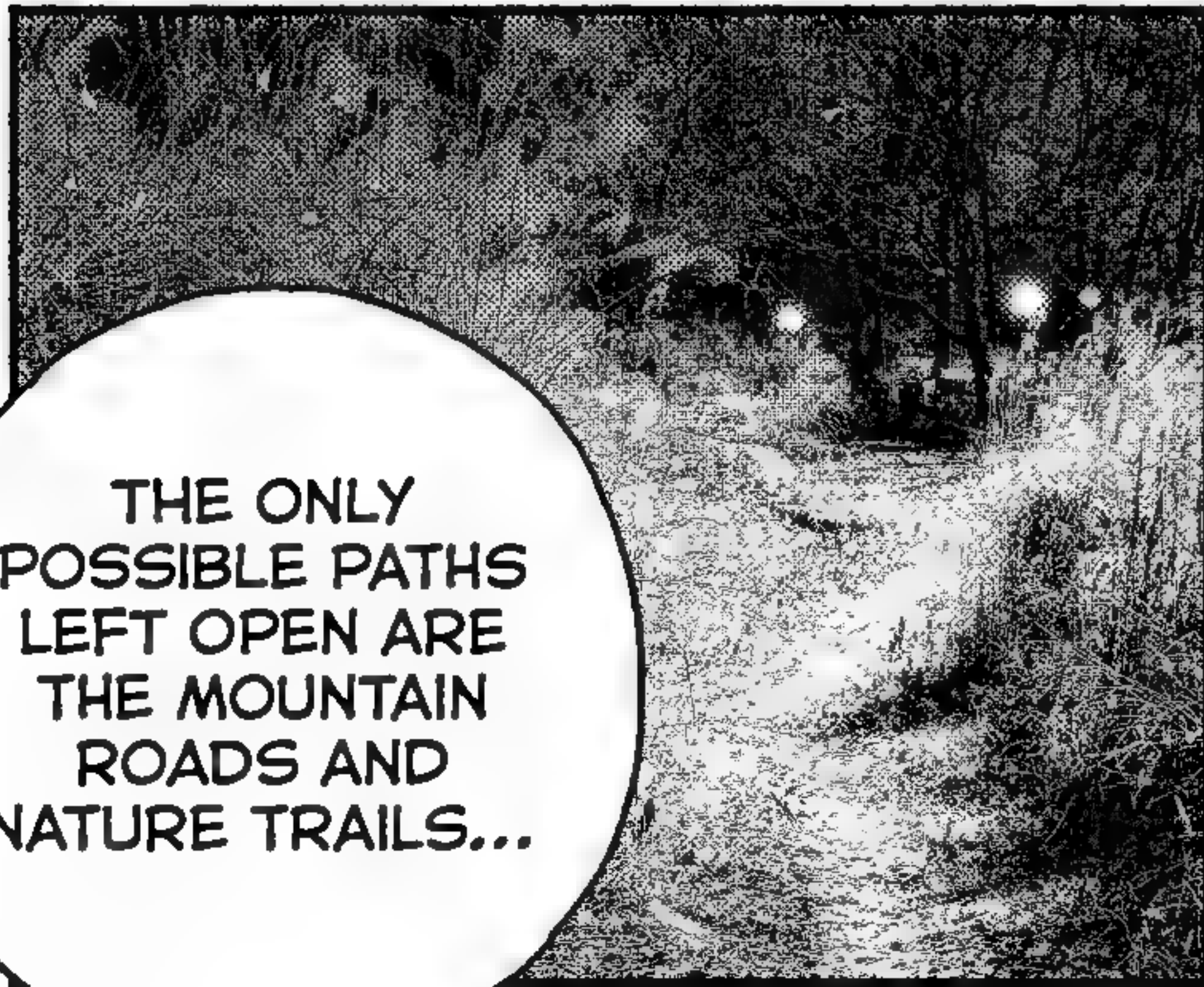
YOU CAN
LEAVE THAT
TO ME!

ALL
RIGHT, I
GOT IT!



WHEN
THE FESTIVAL
IS ONGOING,
VEHICLES ARE
FORBIDDEN FROM
ENTERING THE
GROUNDS...

EXCEPT
FOR SOME
EMERGENCY
VEHICLES,
THAT IS.



THE ONLY
POSSIBLE PATHS
LEFT OPEN ARE
THE MOUNTAIN
ROADS AND
NATURE TRAILS...



WHAT'S MORE...
I FEAR THAT KEIJI'S
MEN HAVE ALREADY
BLOCKED OFF THE
MAIN ROUTES WE
CAN TAKE.



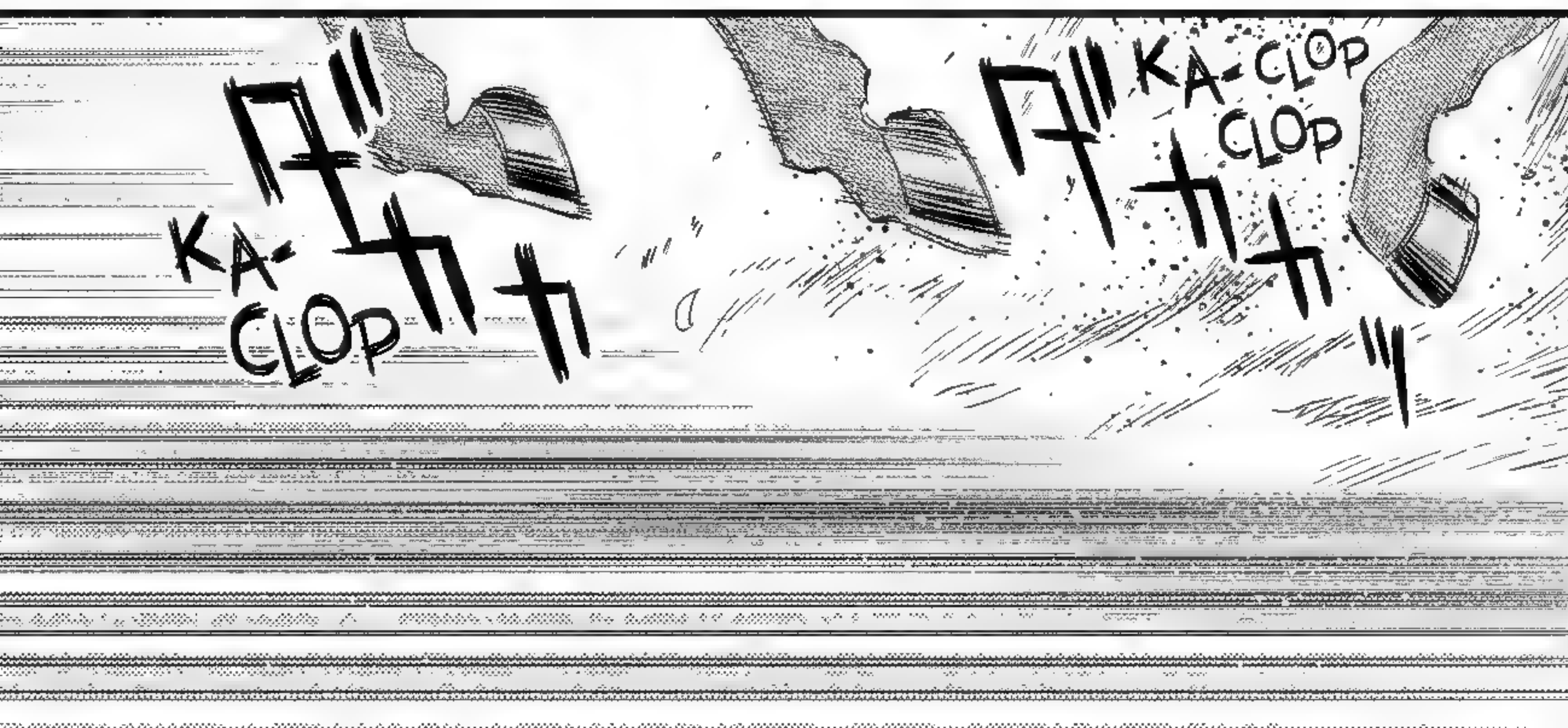
WHAT?

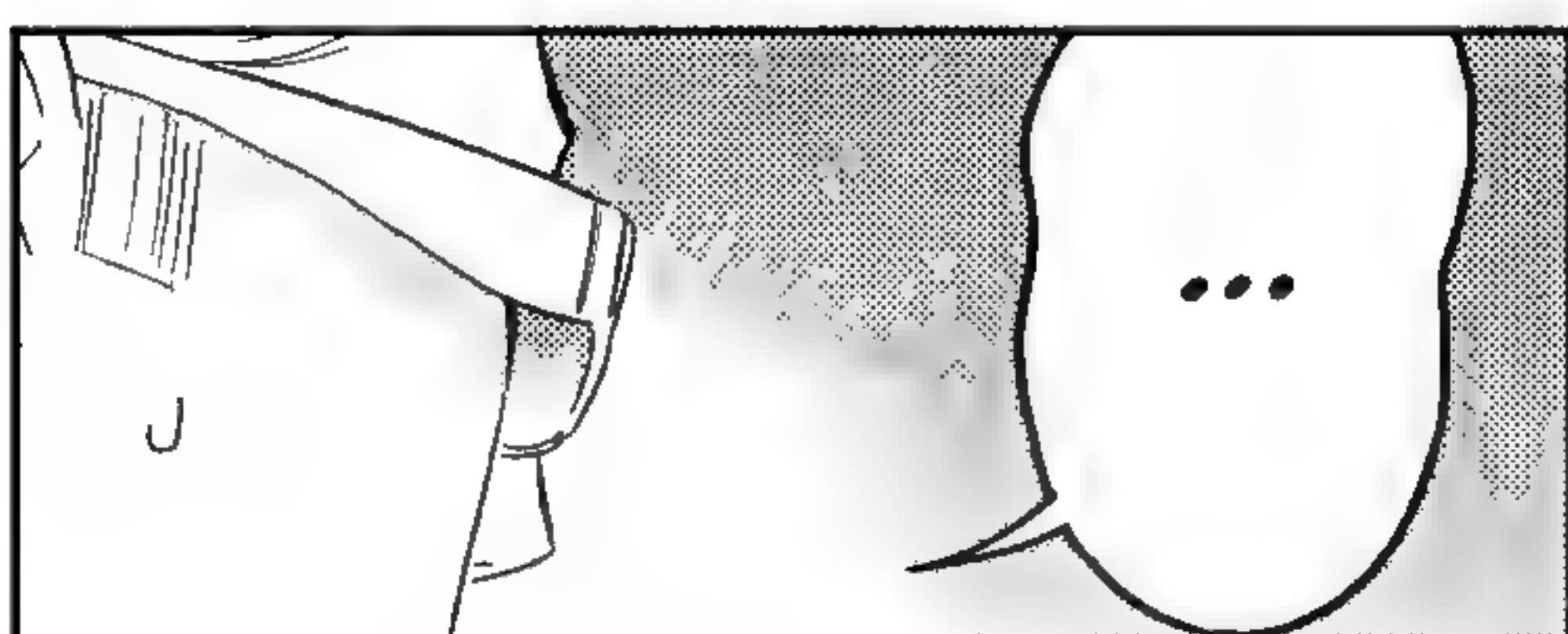
WE WILL NOT
BE DOING
THE RUNNING
OURSELVES.

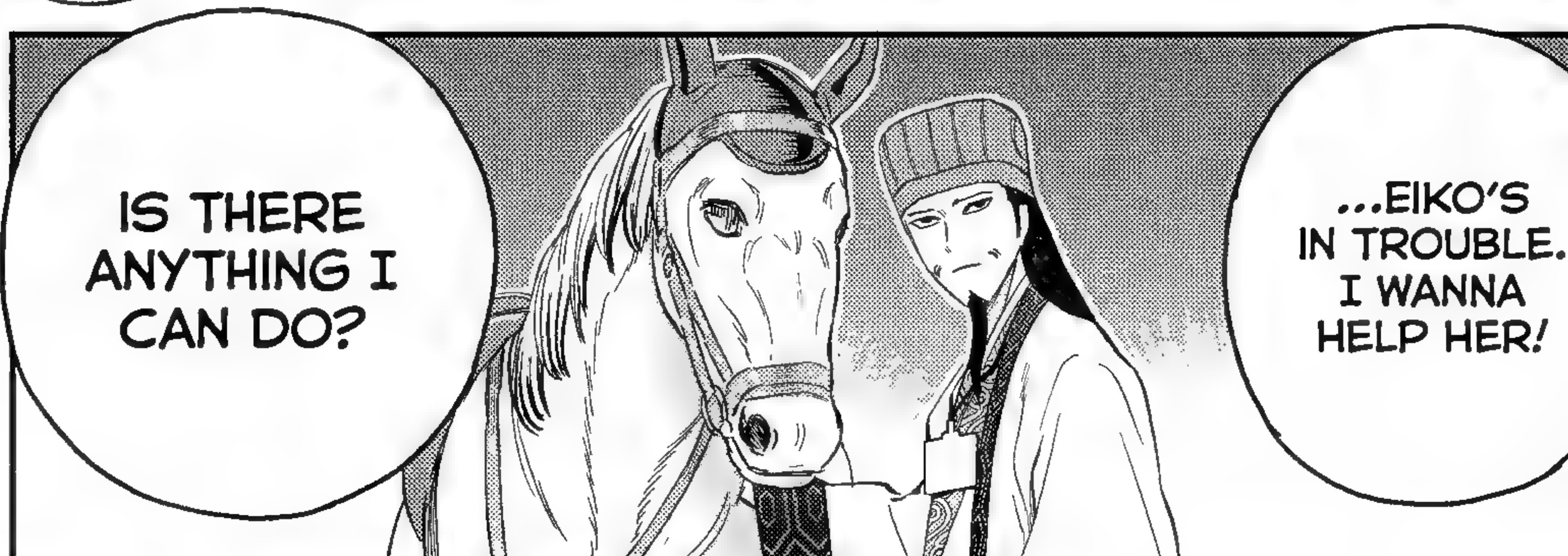
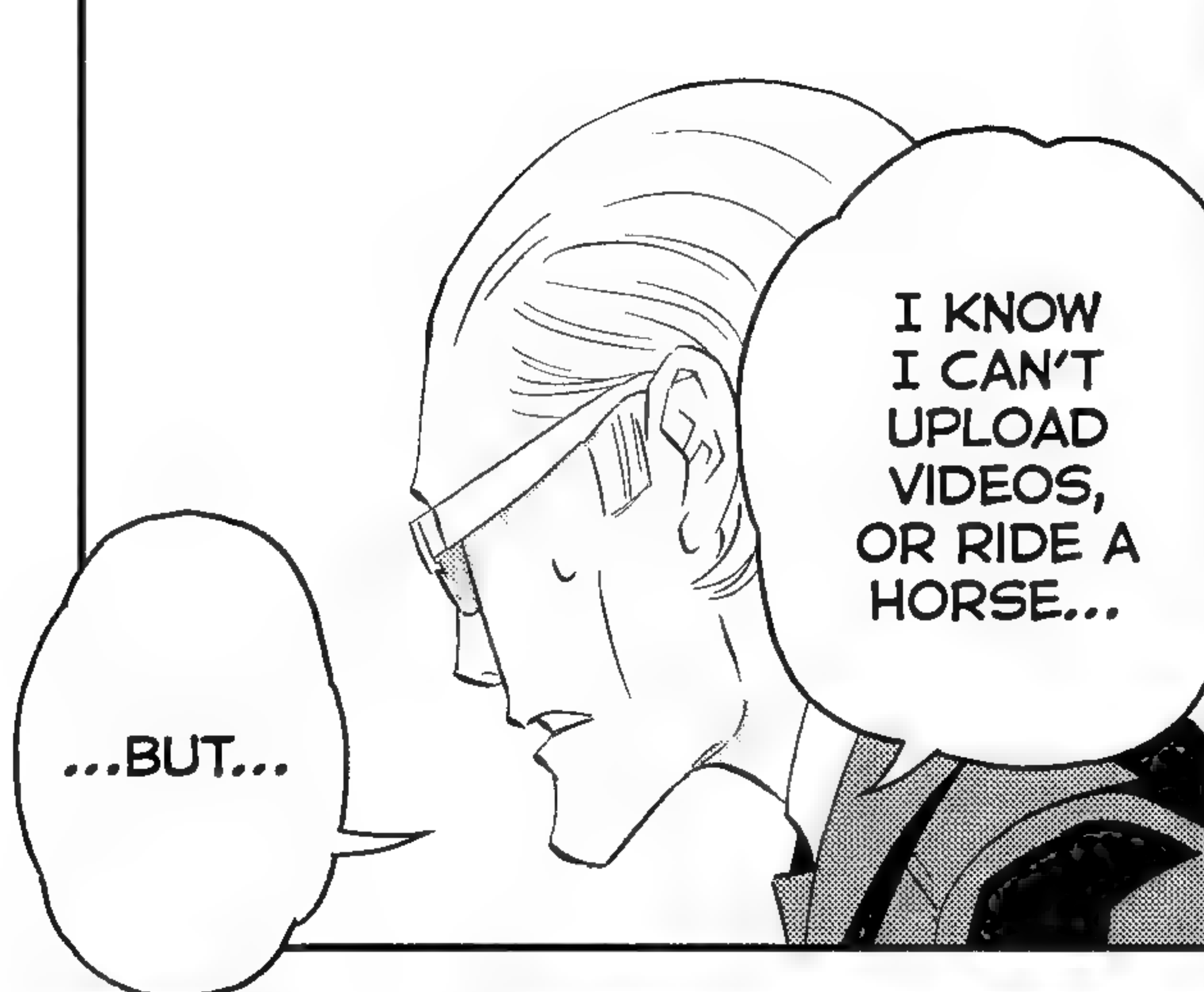
THAT'S
CORRECT.
HOW-
EVER...

BUT
THEN ALL
THAT'S
LEFT IS
TO RUN...

ARE
YOU
SURE?



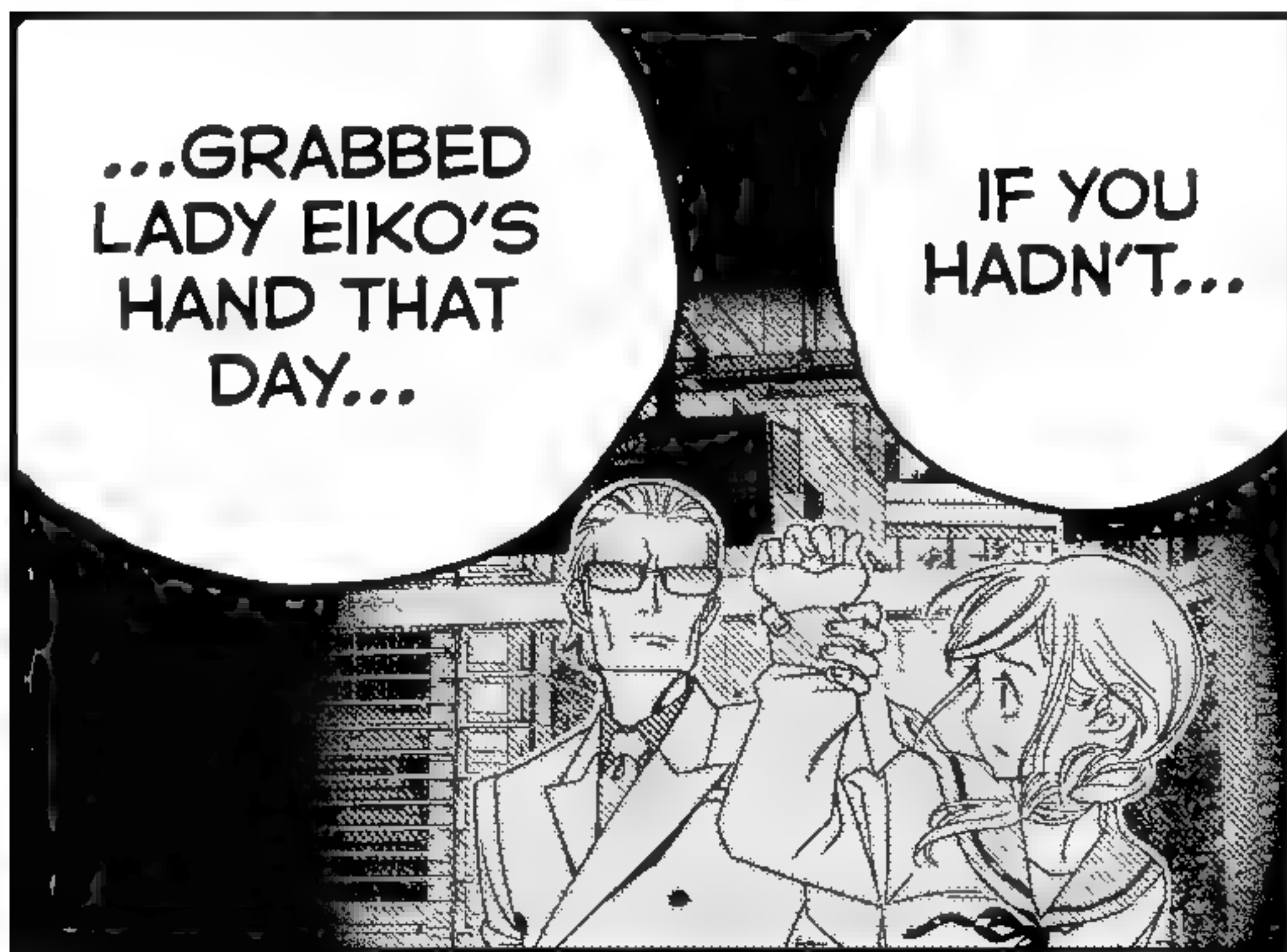






...TO WATCH
LADY EIKO'S
PERFORMANCE.

IT'S...



...GRABBED
LADY EIKO'S
HAND THAT
DAY...

IF YOU
HADN'T...



IF...

THAT'S
NOT WHAT I
MEANT...



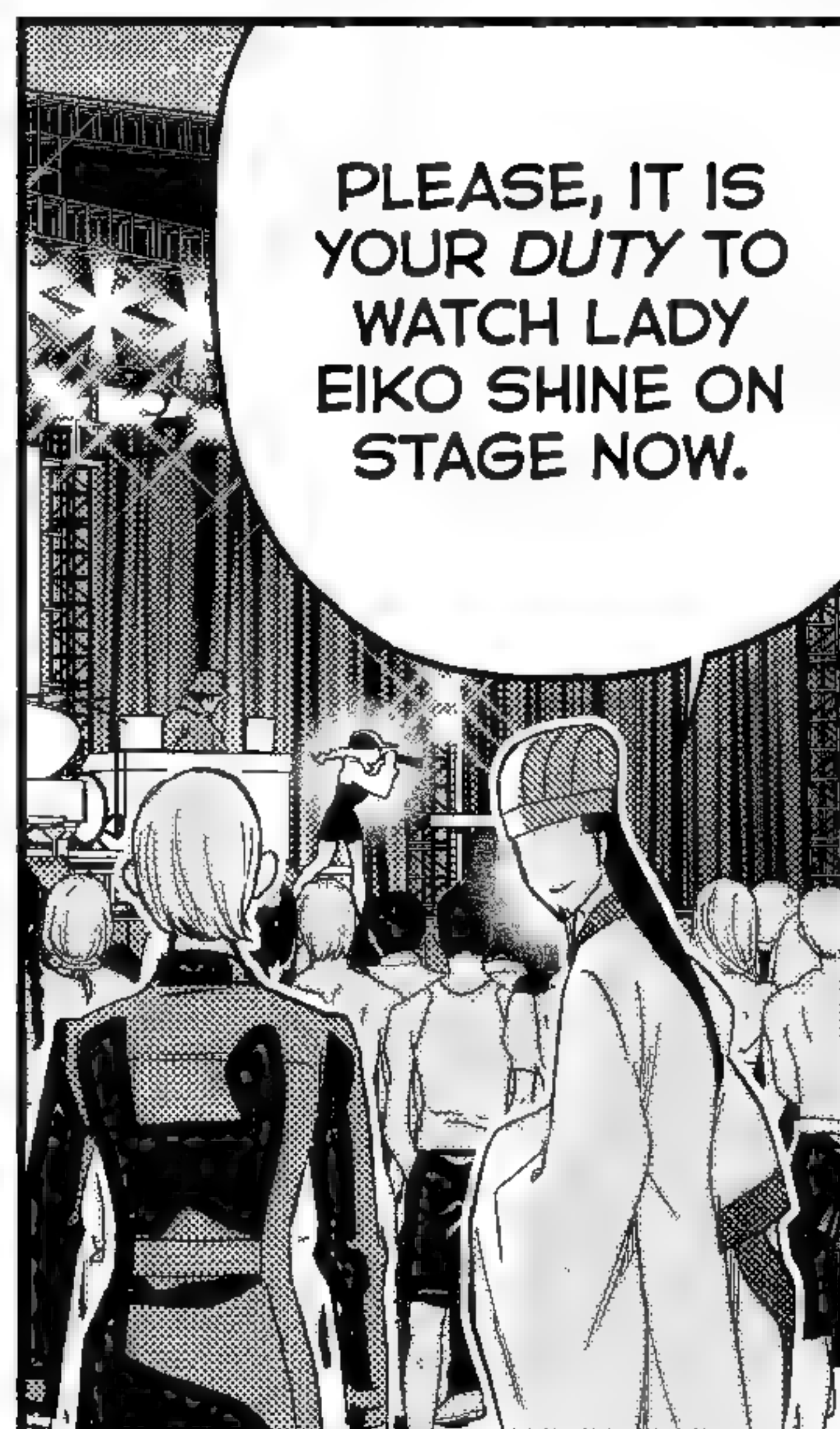
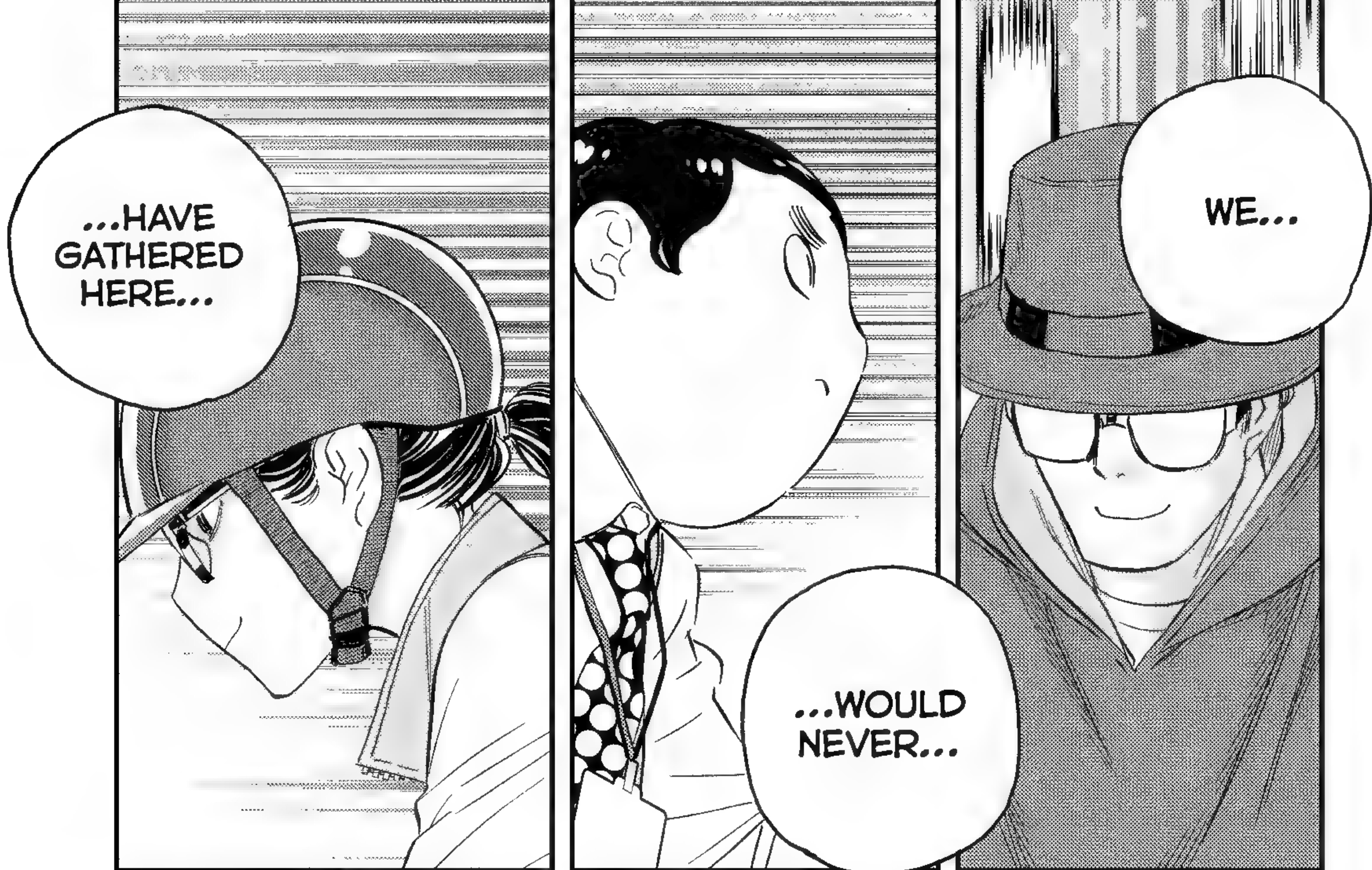
...IF YOU
HADN'T GIVEN
LADY EIKO THE
CHANCE TO
HEAR MARIA
SING...



...YOU
HAD NEVER
EMPLOYED
ME AT BB
LOUNGE...



...IF...





1971
Boy
Knows
Nothing!

EXTRA

SPECIAL SHORT STORY

Kongming's Day Off

Yuto Yotsuba

► **AFTER HER MORNING SESSION,** Eiko waltzed through the doors of the Fourth Kingdom's office.

“Huh? You're alone today, Kongming? That's rare.”

Eiko continued into the room, wearing her signature black cap and white T-shirt as well as a pair of ripped denim shorts. She called out to Kongming, who was hunched over a computer connected to three monitors.

“Ah, Lady Eiko. Thank you for another day of hard work.” Kongming swiveled around in his chair, donning his usual hat and robes. As he spoke, he raised his hands and lowered his head as he greeted Eiko, who had grown used to Kongming's gentle smile.

“Yeah, thanks! So, where's everyone?”

“Sir Boss is stocking the bar, while Sir Shoji and Lady Shino are out on business.”

“Oh, okay.”

Eiko glanced at the computer screen filled with graphs and text before quickly giving up on trying to figure out what Kongming was doing and returning her gaze to the man himself. “By the way, Kongming, have you taken any breaks lately? The boss is worried that you might work yourself to death, since you're always doing everything yourself.”

“Ah, those words sting. My subordinates of the past had once said the same thing.”

“Uhhh huh... You used to be a boss at a company or something before, right?”

“I was humbly tasked to be the regent of the state of Shu.”

“What? State of shoe? I don’t really get it...but hey, it sounds cool.”

To explain it simply, a regent is somewhat like a prime minister of today’s age.

“But that doesn’t change anything. You still shouldn’t work *too* hard. Remember when I overexerted myself? I ended up in the hospital! You’re such a detail-oriented guy... I’ll keep working hard at singing, so you should hire some more employees to help you out.”

“I thank you for your gracious words, my lady. Sir Boss has warned me a great number of times as well...it would be rude of me to ignore your wishes. I will be searching for the proper talent once Summer Sonia is over.”

“Good idea!” Eiko grinned at Kongming before glancing up to the clock on the wall. “When’re you gonna finish work today?”

“Is something the matter?”

“Did you know that the high-class hotel in front of Shibuya station has a limited-time all-you-can-eat Chinese buffet? It’s super cheap at lunchtime. You can take a break, and we can go check it out together! You like Chinese cooking, don’t you? You always wear Chinese clothes, too. Here—just take a look for yourself. It’s out of this world!”

Eiko tapped on her cell phone and shoved the screen towards Kongming, showing him the Instagram page for this limited-time Chinese buffet. A collection of colorful dishes were lined up on the account, and just seeing those meals could make anyone’s stomach growl. What’s more, the comments under the page were filled with praise for the taste and price.

“An all-you-can-eat buffet...” Kongming grabbed the feathered fan he’d left on the desk and raised it to his face, hiding his mouth. “My, how interesting.”

“Oh, you’ve never been to one?”

“It would be my first.”

“Dang, what kinda hick countryside were you living in?”

“My work is not urgent. Very well, please allow me to accompany you.”

“Okay! Then let’s get going!” Eiko quickly shoved her phone back into her pocket and began to make her way out of the office.

“An all-you-can-eat buffet... Very well, then...” Perhaps Kongming had always wanted to go to one. With delicate movements, he began to fan himself slowly as his lips curled up into a fearless grin.



After standing in line for thirty minutes in front of the high-class hotel before Shibuya station, the two were finally allowed inside.

“Oooh! It all looks so good!” Eiko cried, staring at the food lined up.

Mapo tofu, twice-cooked pork, *babaocai* fried seafood and vegetables, sweet and sour pork, spring rolls, pot stickers, boiled dumplings, chili shrimp, braised shark fin, and much more. The buffet sported a generous lineup of more than fifty dishes, all favorites for anyone who loved Chinese cooking. What’s more, the food was arranged just as beautifully as one would expect from a high-class hotel. The whole scene was a delight for the eyes.

“This is splendid. I can feel my stomach rumble at the sight.”

Kongming remarked, admiring the food before him.

The two were led to their seat just shortly before Eiko bounced up again.

“Do you know what to do, Kongming?”

“Indeed. I did quite a great deal of research while we were waiting.”

“All right! Then let’s feast!”

“Lady Eiko, please make sure to exercise moderation in all things. You often overeat. It’s best to stop when you are eighty percent full, my lady.”

“What’re you saying? That’s now how you do buffets.”

“Then how do you ‘do’ buffets, my lady?”

“Eat ’till you’re two *hundred* percent full.”

“So, I must eat twice what I normally would? How frightening...”

“I mean, I guess you can eat as much as you want.”

“Then I shall eat until I am one hundred percent full. Any more would be detrimental to my health.”

“You sound like such an old man. You came to a buffet, so you gotta eat a ton! C’mon, let’s go!” Eiko quickly walked off towards the buffet full of food.

Kongming placed his fan on the table and stood up. As he waited in line for the popular braised shark fin dish, a customer came up to him and asked, “Excuse me? Where’s the bathroom?”

It seemed that some customers had mistaken him for a cosplaying employee of the hotel...



Eiko dropped three full dishes of food onto the table, a satisfied smile across her lips.

Meanwhile, Kongming had visited every dish, gathering everything in an orderly fashion on his plate.

“Oh, hey. It’s been forever since we went out for food with just the two of us.” Eiko piped up after swallowing her *xiaolongbao* soup dumplings.

“Indeed.”

“Do you like Chinese food, Kongming?”

“I do.”

“What’s your favorite dish they’ve got here?”

“*Hm*. Now let me think...” As Kongming pondered his answer, his eyes naturally darted towards the steamed dishes. “It’s not my favorite, exactly, but I do have fond memories of steamed meat buns.

“Steamed buns are great!” Eiko finished her last *xiaolongbao* and reached for the plate piled high with chili shrimp. “So? What memories do you mean? Did you used to pick up meat buns as a late-night snack from the convenience store or something?”

“It happened during the southern campaign...”

“Uh, is this gonna be a long story? Keep it short, okay?” Eiko was worried this would become another one of those lengthy Three Kingdoms stories that she saw Kongming discussing with the boss all the time.

Kongming reached out and picked up a steamed bun from his plate, staring at it with an expression of nostalgia.

“When we were on our way back after releasing Meng Huo, we came upon a river as black clouds and dense fog rolled in. In a matter of seconds, a strong wind raged across the land—blowing against the water’s surface, the sand and pebbles blew against the soldiers. It was impossible for us to reach the opposite bank.”

“Was it a typhoon? It must’ve been really bad if you couldn’t get past the river.”

“I asked Meng Huo why the weather suddenly changed. He then informed me that the river god was responsible. To quell his anger, we must offer him 49 human heads, a black cow, and a white sheep.”

“That’s Terrifying! Why’d this suddenly turn into a horror story?!”

“Many of my allies had fallen during the campaign, and I did not wish for any more lives to be lost. Thus, I kneaded some flour and added beef and mutton to the center, creating buns shaped like human heads. I used those as an offering instead.”

“And that worked?!”

“The wind and water calmed, and we were able to proceed past the river. That was how these steamed buns came to be, actually.”

“Oh, come on! You’re making this up, right? **That** was the first steamed bun?”

“Was it truly the first? Who really knows? It is possible someone had made something similar even before my time.”

“Yeah, right. I’ll die laughing if you **actually** invented steam buns.”

Kongming brought the bun to his lips and bit into it. The fluffy, sweet bread mixed perfectly with the meat inside.

“This is delicious.” Kongming said, enjoying the light bun as he continued to reminisce about the past.

After spending almost the full two hours at the buffet, Eiko and Kongming left. That night, Eiko suffered an immense stomach ache after eating until she was two hundred percent full.

“And that is why I warned you, Lady Eiko. Here, drink this.”

“Nooooo!”

“Just quickly swallow it! Swish it to the back of your throat!”

“It’s too bitterrrr!”

Eiko’s face twisted in agony as she downed Kongming’s homebrewed stomach medicine.

-END-

Ya Boy Kongming! 11

Kodansha Digital Edition

Ya Boy Kongming! volume 11 copyright © 2022 Yuto Yotsuba, Ryo Ogawa
English translation copyright © 2023 Yuto Yotsuba, Ryo Ogawa

All rights reserved.

First published in Japan in 2022 by Kodansha Ltd., Tokyo.
Electronic publishing rights for this English edition arranged through
Kodansha Ltd., Tokyo.

No portion of this book may be reproduced or transmitted in any form or by
any means without written permission from the copyright holders.

English digital edition published by Kodansha USA Publishing, LLC, New
York.

ISBN: 9781684919406

Digital Edition: 1.0.0

Translation: Jacqueline Fung
Lettering: Darren Smith
Editing: Sarah Tilson
YKS Services LLC/SKY JAPAN, Inc.
Ripping: 1r0n

kodansha.us

